

# The Telegraph



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### IN BRIEF

#### India hits Pak terror bases

■ **NEW DELHI:** The Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday as retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Nine sites were targeted. The defence ministry said the actions were "focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature". No Pakistani military facilities were targeted, the ministry added. India said "considerable restraint" had been demonstrated "in selection of targets and method of execution". Pakistan Army's DG, JSPR, said: "Let me say it unequivocally, Pakistan will respond to this at a time and place of its own choosing." All Pakistan Air Force jets are airborne, the DG said, adding that the strike was from Indian airspace. "Justice is served," the Indian Army said.

#### Trump tariff claim

■ **WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that India has agreed to reduce tariffs on American imports to "nothing", asserting that the decision was made solely because of him. India has not officially announced any such decision.

#### IPL MOMENT

Jasprit Bumrah produced a superb two-over spell during which he took two wickets but it wasn't enough as Gujarat Titans pulled off a three-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians on Tuesday. The Titans had everything in their control but Bumrah's two wickets after the rain break upset their momentum. They, however, came back to knock off the 15 needed off the 19th over to reach the DLS target of 147.

## Mock drills across country today

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi: Union home secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday chaired a meeting with several high-ranking officials and reviewed preparations to strengthen civil defence mechanisms a day ahead of the nationwide mock drills amid escalating tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

On Wednesday, the Indian Air Force will also hold "pre-planned, routine" military drills in Rajasthan along the international border with Pakistan. Sources said a Notam, or Notice to Airman, had been issued for the exercise for May 7 and 8. Scheduled to begin at 9.30pm, the drills will continue for eight hours, during which flight operations at airports close to the border would be suspended.

The home ministry had on Monday announced that mock drills — the first since the 1971 war — would be conducted at 244 designated civil defence districts across the country.

The development comes at a time India is weighing its options to avenge the Pahalgam massacre and Pakistan has warned of a "swift and notched-up response". Sources said Mohan convened Tuesday's meeting to assess and coordinate civil defence preparedness with special focus on 100 of the 244 locations that had been identified as "highly sensitive".

Sources said the sensitive sites were located in bordering areas. The meeting was also attended by the chief secretaries of various states.

A list of vital installations codified under the Civil Defence Rules, 1968, includes defence and paramilitary installations, hospitals and installations of strategic importance.

### WHAT TO EXPECT



Civil defence personnel in Lucknow on Tuesday during a rehearsal for Wednesday's mock drill. (PTI)

The Union home ministry has asked states to conduct civil defence mock drills on Wednesday amid heightened tensions with Pakistan. The exercise will be conducted across the 244 categorised civil defence districts nationwide down to the village level. The drill aims to assess and enhance the readiness of civil defence mechanisms across all states and Union Territories. Government sources said such a large-scale mock drill would be taking place for the first time since the 1971 Bangladesh war.

#### What is a civil defence mock drill?

It is an exercise to identify overall strengths, weaknesses and gaps while responding to emergencies like war or aerial strikes or any kind of hostile attack from air, land and sea.

#### What will happen during the mock drill?

Sources said the drills would be conducted in the designated civil defence districts in coordination with state and local authorities. The public may experience brief power outages, blackout simulations, loud sirens, mobile signal disruptions and limited access to certain public spaces. Temporary traffic diversions may also occur in some areas where police and paramilitary troops are likely to stage simulations of war-like scenarios.

The drills will focus on how to respond to air raid sirens and blackout situations. The sources said people would be instructed to keep medical kits with extra supplies, torches and candles at home

during the drills.

#### Objectives of the mock drill according to the ministry

- Assessing the effectiveness of air raid warning sirens
- Operationalising hotline/radio communication links with the air force
- Training of civilians, students and others on the civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of hostile attacks
- Provisioning for crash bailout measures and assessing their implementation
- Provisioning for early camouflage of vital plants/ installations
- Verifying the activation and response of civil defence services, including warden services, firefighting, rescue operations and department management
- Evaluating the preparedness of evacuation plans and their execution

Compiled by Imran Ahmed Siddiqui

### BENGAL SITES

Civil defence districts in Bengal where mock drills will be held on Wednesday, as listed by the defence ministry

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cooch Behar           | 17. Islampur       |
| 2. Darjeeling            | 18. Dinhat         |
| 3. Jalpaiguri            | 19. Mekhliganj     |
| 4. Malda                 | 20. Mathabhanga    |
| 5. Siliguri              | 21. Jalimpong      |
| 6. Greater Calcutta      | 22. Jaldhaka       |
| 7. Durgapur              | 23. Kurseong       |
| 8. Haldia                | 24. Kolaghat       |
| 9. Hashimara             | 25. Burdwan        |
| 10. Kharagpur            | 26. Birbhum        |
| 11. Burnpur-Asansol      | 27. East Midnapore |
| 12. Farakka-Khejuriaghat | 28. West Midnapore |
| 13. Chittaranjan         | 29. Howrah         |
| 14. Balurghat            | 30. Hooghly        |
| 15. Alipurdwar           | 31. Murshidabad    |
| 16. Raiganj              |                    |

## 'Sensitive' state gears for exigency

PRANESH SARKAR

Calcutta: The government in "sensitive" Bengal will conduct a large-scale emergency preparedness mock drill across 17 districts starting Wednesday.

The week-long drill, involving multiple departments, is being organised after the Centre directed all states to assess their readiness to handle emergencies.

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## Modi: India's waters will flow in India's favour

OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that India's waters would flow in the country's favour, obliquely referring to his government's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance after the Pahalgam terror attack.

"Ab Bharat ka paani Bharat ke haq mein bahega, Bharat ke haq mein rukega aur Bharat ke hi kaam aye-ga (Now India's waters will flow in India's favour, and will be used for India only)," Modi said while addressing the ABP Network India at 2047 Summit in Delhi.

Though Modi did not directly refer to the water treaty being put in abeyance as part of a series of diplomatic push-



Modi at the ABP Network India at 2047 Summit on Tuesday. (@narendramodivt YouTube via PTI)

backs against Pakistan after the Pahalgam carnage, he clearly seemed to be referring to it.

"These days, there is a lot of discussion in the media over water," he remarked with a smile, appearing to refer to India's decision to stop sharing river water with Pakistan.

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## In Loving Memory of



### MOU ROYCHOWDHURY

March 12, 1971 – May 7, 2024  
Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group

A year has passed since she merged with the Infinite,  
yet her refined aesthetic sensibility and graceful life continue  
to be a source of inspiration.

We remember her with deep reverence and heartfelt prayers.  
May her gentle smile and dignified presence remain forever  
etched in our hearts as cherished memories...

Loving Family, Friends, & Colleagues



Techno India Group Family

## STYLED BY SABYA, SRK TAKES FASHION MECCA CROWN

## Bling King is all that glitters at Gala



**MET MAGICIAN:** Shah Rukh Khan attends the 2025 Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (Getty Images, courtesy Sabyasachi Mukherjee)

### SMITA ROY CHOWDHURY AND SANJALI BRAHMA

Shah Rukh Khan's long-awaited debut on the MET Gala steps lived up to every bit of the expectations that had built up ever since the news of the superstar's appearance at global fashion's biggest stage broke.

The anticipation was even higher since King Khan was to be dressed by none other than Calcutta designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, a favourite of Indian stars for their global appearances.

On Monday night (Tuesday morning in India), New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art's teal carpet saw Khan arrive in his signature flamboyant style, courtesy of Mukherjee, in a look celebrating heritage and maximalist elegance. A blockbuster moment in the making — equal parts red carpet dazzle and cultural mic drop.

The theme for this year's MET Gala exhibition was "Superfine: Tailoring Black

Style" and the dress code was "Tailored For You".

Khan's look was a masterclass in maximalist suave — a floor-length, elongated coat in Tasmanian superfine wool with monogrammed Japanese horn buttons. The hand-crafted, single-breasted coat featured a peak collar and wide lapels, paired with a crepe de chine silk shirt and tailored superfine wool trousers.

The pièce de résistance? A pleated silk cummerbund and the Bengal Tiger Head Cane — an 18k gold work of art adorned with tourmalines, sapphires and diamonds. Custom jewellery from Sabyasachi High Jewellery — layered necklaces bearing his initials to a diamond-encrusted "K" (for King Khan) — imbued the look with personal symbolism.

Khan told a fashion magazine during the carpet call: "I've little kids (Suhana, Aryan and AbRam) who are very excited about the MET."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►











Former general and 103-year-old look back at city's tryst with wars when windows would be blacked out



Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Tuesday. (©CMJn via PTI)

## Don't punish Kashmiris: Omar

MUZAFAAR RAINA

Srinagar: Chief minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday warned the security establishment against making Kashmiris feel like they were being subjected to "collective punishment" as he flagged the death of a 24-year-old man in Kulgam and multiple arrests following the Pahalgam terror attack.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has also urged lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to "end the policy of arrests and punitive measures and ensure release of innocents", while claiming that 3,000 people had been arrested in the crackdown that followed the April 22 carnage.

Kashmir erupted in outrage after Intiyaz Ahmad Mawani's body was recovered from a stream on Sunday following his arrest by the security forces last week. While Magrey's family and politicians have alleged foul play, the police have claimed he committed suicide after jumping into the stream while leading them to a militant hideout.

Security forces are also facing accusations of killing the brothers of two militants in Baniptora and Kupwara districts and blowing up dozens of houses as part of an anti-terror drive.

"Kulgam should not have happened. There are also reports of arrests in different places. It should not happen with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmir, who for the first time came out and expressed outrage over any (military) attack," Omar told reporters.

"People should not feel they are being subjected to collective punishment in order to apprehend the perpetrator of the Pahalgam attack," he added.

## Mock drills across country today

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"The focus of the meeting was to enhance emergency preparedness, besides discussing ways to train civilians for emergency scenarios. Key focus areas include public response to air raid sirens, actions to take during blackouts and the readiness of essential supplies," a home ministry official said.

"We are reviewing preparedness. During the meeting, we identified some loopholes which will be rectified. Delhi, Bengal and Punjab have a large number of active civil defence volunteers who are engaged in civic duties, including traffic and crowd management," he added.

According to him, civilians will be advised to keep medi-

## Calcutta: siren, trenches

KINSUK BASU

Calcutta: Baffle walls were erected outside windows, trenches were dug along roads, motorists were asked to zigzag their way and there would be sudden blackouts.

Between World War II and the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, Calcutta had been through regular warring sirens as part of a war or preparations for one.

Former army chief Shankar Roychowdhury recalled during World War II, air raid precaution (ARP) wardens would go around Calcutta armed with whistles and torches and warn residents to be aware of ongoing air raids and take necessary precautions.

"As a school boy, we would listen to the blowing of whistles by ARP wardens outside our homes in Calcutta," Gen. Roychowdhury said. "Some of these wardens also helped build baffle walls, close to windows, to prevent residents from receiving splinter injuries during bombings or bullets during firing."

Some of those who witnessed both — and lived through the India-China war in 1962 and the India-Pakistan war in 1965 — recalled how sirens would go off from different buildings, including the Metropolitan Building in Chowringhee, the ones in Bol Para on College Street and Howrah, mostly at night.

Residents would rush to the ground floor, stay huddled and crouch under an all-clear signal would be given.

"Wailing sirens meant lights would have to go off. We had to take strenuous drills," recalled Chandra Sekhar Bose, a 103-year-old Salt Lake resident. "We had our windows covered with long cloth strips, like bandages. During the Liberation War, there would be sudden blackouts. Every one carried torches. A flood of refugees kept swarming the city. The sirens would go off once in a while. We had to dim our lights. Wartime and sirens were synonymous."

During World War II, separate trenches would be built for the Indians and the British, respectively. Roychowdhury, whose father worked with the

## UNSC 'tough questions' for Pak

General Shankar Roychowdhury

Imperial Bank in Dehradun. "As a young boy, I never had to enter the trenches. But I remember seeing many people going inside. If required, they would have to be built now in Calcutta," Gen Roychowdhury said.

The country's 18th Chief of Army Staff in the mid-1990s advised Calcuttans that if things come to such a state as a war, people should try to stay closer to the ground, particularly those living in high-rise buildings.

"The windows should be blacked out, the lights should be put off after the warnings and do keep torches at hand. Much of it is common sense, including learning how to move in the darkness and embracing the possibility that the crime rate could rise."

Several senior army officers said it's one thing to remain prepared for an air strike and be under one.

"During the 1965 war, I was under one. I was riding a Jeep in the Akhnoor sector in Jammu and Kashmir when my driver spotted a Sabre jet strike for the first time. There was a cloud of explosion after the strike," Gen Roychowdhury said.

"We were then told that if you are not inside a tank and on a Jeep, you drive in circles to avoid being air-hit. A PWD guesthouse where senior officers from Bangalore would put up was ravaged by an air strike during the war."

Senior officers in the army and air force said that while measures like digging trenches and switching off lights help, the rules of the game have changed since the Liberation War of 1972 and more so after the 1999 Kargil War.

and oversee the drill, which will involve local government officials, civil defence wards, home guards, the National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme volunteers, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan members and school and college students.

In Delhi, all deputy commissioners of police (DCPs) have been asked to prepare drills, including fire drills. Sources said DCPs had begun holding strategy meetings with senior officers to increase patrolling and tighten security across key locations in Delhi as part of the larger civil defence readiness effort.

Prashant Kumar, the Uttar Pradesh director-general of police (DG), said his force has classified the 15 districts of the state in three categories accord-

New York: UN Security Council member nations have posed tough questions to Pakistan while discussing the Pahalgam terror attack amid increasing global outrage over the deadly strike that killed 26 civilians.

The Security Council refused to issue a statement following the meeting, which was held in a conference room rather than the main hall, effectively dismissing Pakistan's attempt to get a favourable position from the UN organisation.

There was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and the need to fix accountability for it, authoritative sources told PTI after an informal session of the top UN body.

"The UN Security Council members raised tough questions for Pakistan at its informal session. It was advised to sort out the issues bilaterally with India," a source said.

At the deliberations, the Security Council discussed rising tensions between India and Pakistan and several envoys called for de-escalation. Greece, president of the UNSC for May, had scheduled the meeting on Monday following a request by Pakistan.

Assistant secretary-gen-



Jammu and Kashmir SDRF personnel conduct a mock drill at the Dal Lake on Tuesday. (PTI)

eral for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Khaled Mohamed Khari of Tunisia, briefed the council on behalf of both departments (the DPPA and the DPO).

Coming out of the meeting, Khari said there was a call for "dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict." He noted that the "situation is volatile."

Ambassador Evangelos Seferis, a Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations and the current UNSC president, described it as a "productive meeting, helpful."

A Russian diplomat said: "We hope for de-escalation." Sources said there was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and recognition of the need for accountability.

Some members specifically brought up targeting of tourists on the basis of their religion, the sources said. UNSC members refused to

accept the "false flag" narrative and asked whether the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tolba was likely to be involved.

The sources said Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation also failed. Many members expressed concern that Pakistan's missile tests and nuclear rhetoric were escalatory factors. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, told reporters that the country's objectives were "largely served and achieved" at the meeting.

He said the objectives of the closed consultations included enabling the council members to have a discussion on the deteriorating security environment and rising tensions between India and Pakistan, and to have an exchange of views on how to address the situation, including avoiding confrontation that could have serious consequences and the need for de-escalation.

PTI

## PM water hint

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Outlining the summit's theme of India@2047, Modi said his government was moving towards a "GEP-centric" approach to development instead of a GDP-centric approach.

"Instead of a GDP-centric approach, India is moving towards a GEP-centric approach. GEP means Gross Empowerment of People. Means, empowerment of all," Modi told the summit.

Modi said his government was confident that India would achieve the target of becoming a "vibrant (developed) country in the hundredth year of Independence in 2047. He said the country had the "capability, resources and will-power" to hit the milestone. "Swami Vivekananda used to say, 'Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is reached'. Today, I see the same feeling in every citizen of the country," he said.

Modi said his government was working with the vision of "Nation First" and taking bold decisions in every sector. He slammed previous governments for dithering on key decisions. "There was a time when every decision was preceded by the

thought whether the world would like it or not, whether it would fetch votes or not," he said.

"The country cannot move forward like this. The country moves forward when the only criterion for decisions is 'Nation First'," he added.

Modi claimed that banks were in a precarious situation during the UPA regime, but made a record profit over the last decade on the back of bold reforms initiated by his government.

He said India had turned into a manufacturing hub under his government. "We were told that India is not a maker but just a market, but now this tag imposed on India is getting removed. Today, India is becoming the world's biggest defence manufacturer and exporter. India's defence products are being exported to more than 100 countries," he said.

He said India was showing the world that "tradition and technology can thrive together."

"We are among the top countries in digital transactions and at the same time we are taking our yoga and ayurveda to the world," the Prime Minister said.

## 'Absurd' tag on OIC blame

ANITA JOSHI

New Delhi: India on Tuesday rejected the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) statement from New York that blamed India's "unfounded allegations against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan" on Pahalgam as a key factor inflaming tensions in the region.

"The OIC statement, issued at the behest of Pakistan, is absurd in refusing to recognise the facts of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and its cross-border linkages. This is yet another attempt by Pakistan, a country that has long engaged in cross-border terrorism, to manipulate and misguide the OIC group to issue a self-serving statement. We reject the OIC's interference on matters that are internal to India," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randeep Misra said in response to queries on the OIC's second statement since the Pahalgam attack.

A copy of the OIC statement is not available on its website but was reported by the Turkish state-run news

agency Anadolu Agency. According to the agency report, in a joint statement, the OIC said such accusations risk exacerbating an already volatile situation and iterated its "principled position against, and condemnation of, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever and wherever."

The report said that the OIC rejected "all attempts to associate any country, race, religion, culture or nationality with terrorism" and added: "The unresolved dispute remains the core issue affecting peace and security in South Asia. The people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to be denied their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions."

At the end of the month, the OIC general secretariat expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security situation in the South Asian region and called for restraint and the urgent resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan.

## Rahul unity message at home of navy victim

PHEROZE V. VINCENT

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met the family of Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, the naval officer who was killed in the attack on Pahalgam.

Rahul visited the family in Karnal with Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda, Haryana Congress chief Isha Bhan, Karnataka ML C.B. Kharas and other party leaders.

After the meeting, Rahul posted on X: "Their courage and bravery even in the midst of immense grief is a message for the country — we have to remain united. The whole country stands with the families of the martyrs. The Opposition fully supports the government — the culprits should

be punished in such a way that no one dares to even look at India."

Last week, Rahul had met the Kashmir-based kin of Shubham Dwivedi, who was also killed in Pahalgam.

Narwal's widow Himanshi, who was not at home when Rahul visited, became an icon of national grief after she was photographed sitting beside her husband's corpse. At a memorial meeting for him on May 1, she spoke out against attacks on Muslims by Right-wing groups using Pahalgam as an excuse. She has faced incessant online trolling since.

Hooda told reporters that the conversation with the bereaved family was private. On the trolling, he said: "Rahulji and our objective is not to make political resolutions."

The National Commission for Women had on Monday issued a cagey condemnation of the trolling. Opposition politicians and civil society have praised Himanshi for her stand after the attack.

## Charge to PM: Follow Telangana census model

ANITA JOSHI

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposing that the recently concluded Telangana caste survey be used as the template for the nationwide census announced by the government last week.

In a letter to Modi on Monday, Kharge said: "The design of the census questionnaire is crucial. Caste information has to be collected not for counting purposes but for achieving larger socio-economic objectives. The recently concluded Telangana caste survey was designed with such goals in mind. The



Mallikarjun Kharge addresses the Congress's Samvidhan Bachao rally in Ranchi on Tuesday. (PTI)

Union home ministry must draw upon the Telangana model — both the methodology and the questionnaire — as the final set of questions asked." He also stressed the need for

transparency. "Nothing in the report published finally should be concealed so that complete socio-economic data of each caste is made available to provide them their constitutionally enabled rights, and the socio-economic progress can be measured from one caste to another."

The Telangana survey, conducted by the Congress government of Revanth Reddy, was designed to draw up the share of the population of different castes, their education levels, employment and economic status, and the power of the social networks of caste-conscious land. The questionnaire asked of various walks of life, including politics, government, business, media and judiciary.

## Bling King is all that glitters at Gala

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Khan added: "I don't know if I would have come here on my own, but when Sabya suggested it, they went 'wow'. I still don't know if that was 'wow', they called 'not' or 'wow', you'll be good!"

Talking about his outfit, Khan said: "I told Sabya I only wear black and white, and to-night's look is because of that. What he's designed for me is what I'm most comfortable in. That's how I think it should be."

Mukherjee said in an official note issued by his company: "I wanted to represent Shah Rukh Khan as a magician, superstar, and icon. Period."

made his second consecutive MET Gala appearance after a three-year hiatus, marking his debut appearance last year — surprised everyone with his look. The man who's known for his subtle personal style — think white shirts and dark suits — turned it up several notches and how!

Inspired by the noble houses of India, Mukherjee interpreted the theme with a hand-cut, oversized court jacket and sherwani in hand-dyed Murslihabad silk, paired with a silk shirt, black quilted trousers and a hand-dyed kurta. High Jewellery, a lavish emerald choker, accentuated by an over-

sized vintage-style brooch, and chunky rings. His headpiece, a zee-inspired velvet hat, adorned with a marigold plume and a jewelled starburst, was the highlight of the look!

The gala theme explored the role of sartorial style in forming Black identities, focusing on the emergence, significance and proliferation of Black dandyism. The exhibit, comprising clothing, photographs, fine art, historical texts and artefacts, was the first Costume Institute exhibit to focus on menswear since 2008's "Men in Skirts." It drew inspiration from Monica L. Miller's 2009 book, *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity*, offering a rich exploration of how fashion became a powerful form of self-expression and defiance against soci-

etal and racial norms.

Mukherjee's interpretation of the theme was fiercely defiant. He likened the Black dandy ethos to a story from Indian history — Jamsetji Tata's refusal to accept exclusion from a British-only hotel in colonial Bombay, and how that led to the creation of the iconic Taj Mahal Palace. "We celebrate dandyism on the MET Gala red carpet by bringing our own version of a uniquely Indian exuberance," said Mukherjee. "For culture to be relevant, it must be dynamic," added the designer.

On the star-studded carpet were other Indian stars making their MET debuts. Mom-to-be Kiara Advani turned heads in a deep red sari. Karanvir Bohra wore a dramatic cape,

seamlessly blending modern-

hood with haute couture. Pundit pop star Diljit Dosanjh channelled the opulence of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala in a regal custom Prabal Gurung outfit, complete with ceremonial sword and Gurmukhi script embroidery. And designer Manish Malhotra, making his own debut on the MET Gala carpet, followed in the footsteps of Mukherjee, reminding the world of the global reach of Indian fashion.

SRK and Savvyasachi's MET moment? Fashion history. It was just an outfit. It was a full-throttle celebration of identity, cinema, craft and charisma. And let's be honest — when Bollywood meets Black dandyism, the result is nothing less than spectacular.

## After divisive protest, eye on 'encroachers'

PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA

Lucknow: Members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other Hinduwa organisations took to the streets in Nainital on Tuesday to demand an anti-encroachment drive in the aftermath of the alleged rape of a minor by a 60-year-old Muslim civil contractor.

Although Mohamad Usman was arrested on April 30, a day after the crime, the Hinduwa groups had organised three days of protests till Friday to mount pressure on the government to remove all encroachments in the town, alleging that most of the en-

croachers were Muslims. The Uttarakhand government had served notices to many alleged encroachers, including Usman, and directed them to respond within three days.

However, Nainital High Court pulled up the state government on May 2, reminding it of the Supreme Court's directive that mandated a 15-day notice to the owner or occupier of land before any construction before demolition.

On Tuesday, members of the Hinduwa organisations once again assembled at Ma Nainital Temple in the town and later took out a procession in Mallital while chanting

the Hanuman Chalisa. They broke barricades at several places and entered into various fights with police near the Nagar Palika office, where they sat on a dharna for over an hour.

"The government is delaying action against the encroachers. The high court has objected to action against shopkeepers and residents who have built their shops and houses on encroached land. The government must survey the land and make public the list of encroachers. No court can prevent the government from taking action against the land mafia if the charges are true," said Mukesh Joshi, a resident.



## Exigency drill

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This is the first such large-scale exercise in Bengal since the 1971 India-Pakistan war, according to senior officials. Departments, including fire and emergency services, civil defence and disaster management, health and home, will participate in the coordinated drills at over 30 "strategic points" across the 17 districts.

"The details of the mock drill will be sent to the districts by Tuesday evening.... The Centre has identified the categorised districts and the state will now decide on the strategic locations where the exercise will be held. More than 30 strategic locations have been identified for the drill so far," said a senior state official.

During a video conference held by Union home secretary Govind Mohan, the state was briefed on the steps required to be followed. Bengal chief secretary Manoj Pant, home secretary Nandini Chakraborty and civil defence secretary Rajesh Sinha attended the meeting.

"In the prevailing situation, the state has been described as sensitive by the Centre.... The state has been asked to assess the preparedness to deal with any emergency and also check the coordination between the departments that deal with crisis," said a senior government official, adding that common people would not be involved initially.

Asked what kind of exercise would be conducted during the civil defence mock drill in Bengal, a bureaucrat said evacuation during a fire or a building collapse. The drill will also assess how fast the fire tenders are pressed into service during a fire or how quickly the injured are shifted to hospitals during a crisis.

Sirens installed in various parts of the state must be kept ready so that people can be alerted during an air strike.

"There are 96 sirens in Calcutta and about 20-25 sirens in each district. These sirens would be checked to ascertain if they are functional. Primary reports suggest that a major-

ty of the sirens, mostly in Calcutta, were widely used during World War II when Japanese aircraft dropped bombs in the city. However, they were not used after the 1971 war and are not in working condition," said an official.

He added that in the aftermath of Cyclone Aila's devastation, the state government installed over 300 sirens in 2012 in the disaster-prone parts of Bengal.

The official said that Kolkata Police had issued an urgent message across police stations to collect information about the existing sirens in their jurisdictions.

A list of sirens has to be collated for repair for use during the mock drills, a senior officer at the police headquarters said on Tuesday. Sources said the use of sirens in the city and district headquarters was discussed at length at the meeting convened by the Union home secretary.

The state was also asked to keep satellite phones ready so that the communication system does not collapse under any circumstances.

"The state has 60-odd satellite phones, which are used during emergencies such as cyclones and other natural calamities, and all are functional," said a source.

A senior official said that the existing control room of the disaster management department at Nabanna would act as the main contact point with the air force. The air force will send message to the control room to alert it in case of a possible air strike, and it would be passed down to similar facilities in the districts.

Though 17 districts have been shortlisted for the mock drill, senior government officials were surprised to find border districts such as North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Nadia not included.

"These districts share borders with Bangladesh and they have a large population. These districts are very sensitive, given that they are close to Calcutta and the present situation in Bangladesh...." said a senior state official.

Additional reporting by Kinook Basu and Monalisa Chatterjee

Mamata in Murshidabad damage-control mode, but lapses remain

## New subdivision for violence hub

SNEHAMOY CHAKRABORTY AND ALAMGIR HOSSAIN

Calcutta/Samsarganj: Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday announced a new subdivision comprising the Suti, Farakka and Samsarganj blocks of Murshidabad.

She also kept senior party leaders from the area away from a meeting with victims of the recent riot that claimed three lives and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds.

A source said both actions by the chief minister during her maiden visit to Murshidabad since the April riots sent a clear message: she was

unhappy with the handling of the situation by both her administration and party.

"Announcing a new subdivision for the violence-hit area confirmed she was unhappy with the failure of the police in managing the riot. Keeping local leaders, including the MLA and MP, away from the meeting with victims clearly showed her dissatisfaction with their performance," said a senior TMC leader in Calcutta.

Mamata, during an administrative meeting in Suti, said a new subdivision would be formed comprising Farakka, Dhulian (Samsarganj) and Suti.



Mamata Banerjee addresses a rally at Suti's KID Vidyalyaya in Murshidabad on Tuesday. Picture by Samim Akbar

"To strengthen the administration here, we have decided to establish a new subdivisional office comprising Farakka, Dhulian and Suti. I expect this will be completed within one to one-and-a-half months. The new office will be set up

at a central location for easy access from all three regions. You no longer have to travel long distances," Mamata said.

A source said if the new subdivision office is set up in a central location, it will most likely be Dhulian.

A senior police officer stated the announcement indirectly acknowledged police failure. The police have been accused of failing to provide security to victims due to poor planning. Before Mamata's visit, the chief of the Jangpur police district, Ananda Roy, was transferred.

A source said that during Mamata's meeting with victims, Kalpana Mondal, a

woman from riot-hit Betbona village, requested a permanent BSP camp. Mamata did not respond.

There were accusations that her party leaders failed to prevent the riot despite the area being home to four TMC lawmakers — Jangpur MP Khalilur Rahman, Samsarganj MLA Amirul Islam, Farakka MLA Manirul Islam and Sagardighi MLA Bayron Biswas.

MP Rahaman and MLA Amirul Islam were not allowed to take part in her meeting with victims at the Samsarganj BDO office on Tuesday. She also did not interact with local leaders at the helipad.

## Didi's plea to people: Don't get provoked



Mamata Banerjee with the daughter of Ejaz Ahmed, who was killed in alleged police firing during last month's riot, at Suti in Murshidabad on Tuesday. Picture by Samim Akbar

riots... I am against all riots," she added.

"The people do not carry out riots, but outsiders who are brought to the state in a pre-planned way to engineer riots. You get trapped. Do not do so."

Before the event, Mamata went with senior administrative officials to Dhulian and met 400 strife-singed families. Her government gave

them multiple forms of assistance, in addition to cheques for ₹1.20 lakh for each of 236 families.

The Trinamool Congress dispensation has been under fire for its alleged failure to avert violence and vandalism in pockets of Murshidabad that affected hundreds of families, claimed at least three lives and injured dozens in April. In the wake of protests against the waqf law.

"I do not have anything new to say about waqf... do not insist. There is no question of that here. If you must protest, go to Delhi (as it is a central law). There is no problem in Bengal, because I am here, Hindu property, Muslim property, Sikh property, Christian property... I will not have any taken away," she said.

"The case was stayed by the Supreme Court and is now sub judice. Do not confuse, if you do, I will be your biggest enemy," she added.

"Did they not try to snatch rights through NRC-NPR? Did we or did we not hit the streets? Let me think it over and make a decision."

The chief minister said she would not stand by anybody who participated in riots and asked the people to remain as vigilant as the administration on outsiders, to identify the "enemies".

## CM skips key riot-hit areas

SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI AND ALAMGIR HOSSAIN

Calcutta/Samsarganj: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee skipped key riot-hit areas during her two-day tour of Murshidabad that ended on Tuesday, prompting shock and disappointment among victims of the April violence.

In Samsarganj, she restricted herself to the BDO office to meet 280 riot-hit families where she distributed cheques for compensation. At Suti, she addressed an administrative programme.

Mamata's decision not to visit the riot-ravaged areas sparked an outcry from both Hindu and Muslim victims.

Built Das, a homemaker in Jafraabad, one of the worst-hit villages, said: "Her visit made no difference to us. She came by helicopter and left the same way."

Built's grievance found an echo in Dhulian resident Golam Mahmuddin, shot in the legs while out to buy medicine for his mother. "I'm paralysed

and the CM chose to ignore people like us," he said.

Three persons — Haragobindo Das, Chandan Das and Ejaz Ahmed — were killed and at least 15 others suffered bullet wounds. Around 40 police personnel were injured, many homes were set ablaze and shops vandalised. Betbona, Jafraabad and Hujaila villages, and two wards of Dhulian municipality were badly scarred.

Administrative sources avoided taking Mamata to Betbona or Jafraabad for fear of public outrage, especially over the alleged inaction of cops and the suspected role of some TMC leaders in the violence.

BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari alleged Mamata

wasn't kept away by security concerns, but was boycotted by victims, which the administration "realised". "The police tried hard to convince people to attend Mamata's meetings, but they refused," he told reporters in Salt Lake during a demonstration by riot victims outside the State Human Rights Commission office.

BJP leader Suwendu

Adhikari alleged Mamata

## Govt to plant 100 neem trees in Digha

OUR BUREAU

Samsarganj/Bhubaneswar: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that her administration would plant 100 neem trees on the premises of the Jagannath temple in Digha to ensure there was no scarcity of the wood, which is mandatory to carve idols of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra.

Mamata's statement came in the backdrop of the recent allegation that leftover neem wood from Puri's 12th-century Jagannath Dham had been used to carve the idols placed at the Digha shrine.

"Why will I steal? There is no scarcity of neem trees in Bengal. There are four neem trees at my home too. There are 500 trees planted on the Jagannath Dham premises. We will plant 100 more neem trees there," said Mamata at her administrative meeting in Suti, Murshidabad district.

Odisha chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday wrote to Mamata, requesting the Bengal government to refrain from using the term "Jagannath Dham" for the Digha shrine.

The letter read: "...The name 'Jagannath Dham' holds a unique and sacrosanct identity linked to Puri, and its usage in reference to any other temple or location hurts sentiment and emotion of millions of pilgrims, devotees, and the general public, besides diluting the distinct heritage of Shree Jagannath Dham, Puri."

Majhi further said: "In view of this, I request the Government of West Bengal to reconsider the usage of the name 'Jagannath Dham' in relation to the Jagannath temple recently established at Digha and refrain from using the term 'Jagannath Dham' in its official naming, communication, and promotional materials."

এনেছিলে সাথে করে মৃত্যুহীন প্রাণ,  
মরণে তাহাই তুমি করে গেলে দান।

## Dr. Rabindra N. Roy

31.07.1939 - 28.02.2025

Founder President

Hem Sheela Model School

Durgapur (West Bengal)



## Celebration of Life

on

10th May 2025

From 5:30 pm

in the School Auditorium

Chairman of Chemistry Department at Drury University, Springfield, Missouri, USA

A pioneer in Undergraduate Research, Recipient of National Research Award 1998 by American Chemical Society

Inaugural Inductee into the College of Natural & Mathematical Sciences - **HALL OF FAME** at Drury University, USA

A visionary leader, a pioneer in education, a guiding light, a devoted architect of the values, a philanthropist under whose guidance Hem Sheela Model School blossomed into a place of excellence, universality and integrity. His legacy lives in every classroom, in the hearts of countless admirers and wellwishers - an unmatched soul of unique excellence.

In Reverence

Trustees, Management, Teachers, Staff & Students of Hem Sheela Model School and Protima Child & Woman Development Centre, Khatguria, along with entire Hem Sheela Family



STOCK CHECK		
Sensx intra-day movement		
Open	High	
80997.24	80981.58	
Low		
80481.03	80641.07	
9:15 am	4:00 pm	
Previous 80796.84		
CURRENCIES		
US \$	₹84.43	
UK Pound	₹112.44	
Euro	₹95.51	

INDICES		
BSE	80641.07	-155.77
Sensex	42391.76	-935.04
Nifty	46834.91	-114.87
Nifty 500	63824.90	-2.42
Nifty 500	21956.60	-238.55
Most active on NSE		
Script	Prior	Traded value
Reliance	1417	1998.55
CoFor	7400	1767.47
M&M	3058	1760.21
HDCLBank	1928	1689.44
Axis	1696	1633.19

COMMODITIES		
Gold (10 gram in ₹)		
Hallmark	9790	+3100
Hallmark	95100	+3100
Silver (kg in ₹)		
Bar	96300	+2050
Portion	96450	+2050
Crude	5020	+9
Copper	851	-0.05

MONEY MARKET		
Call rate	4.95-6.00	
91-day T-Bill	6.02	
1-year Gilt	6.04	
5-year Gilt	6.17	
10-year Gilt	6.44	

## IN BRIEF

### Services sector activity up

■ **NEW DELHI:** India's services sector activity accelerated slightly in April, largely driven by a quicker increase in new order inflows, which also helped to expand employment, a monthly survey said on Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index reached 58.7 in April, up from 58.5 in March, indicating a sharp and stronger expansion in services sector output. The headline figure was above its long-run average of 54.2.

■ **BoB numbers**  
■ **NEW DELHI:** Shares of Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday tumbled nearly 11 per cent after the company's March quarterly earnings failed to cheer investors. State-owned Bank of Baroda on Tuesday reported a marginal 3 per cent rise in net profit to ₹4,046 crore in the March quarter of FY25. The lender had earned a net profit of ₹4,886 crore in the year-ago period.

■ **Moody's on growth**  
■ **NEW DELHI:** Moody's Ratings on Tuesday cut India's GDP growth projections for 2025 to 6.3 per cent, from 6.5 per cent, saying economies globally will see a slowdown on account of heightened US policy uncertainty and trade restrictions.

## Probe: Did Union Bank play by the book?

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
Calcutta: Government-owned Union Bank on Tuesday said it is probing lapses in the procurement of close to 2 lakh books titled 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' written by former International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive director K.V. Subramanian and valued at about ₹7.25 crore. Notably, the bank's probe comes at a time the government of India has terminated the services of Subramanian, six months ahead of his three-year tenure.  
"The bank has made the said procurement. However, there were certain lapses in

## The Telegraph

Calcutta Wednesday 7 May 2025

## India clinches trade pact with UK

OUR BUREAU  
Calcutta: India has reached a long-coveted free trade pact with the UK on Tuesday after tariff turmoil sparked by US President Donald Trump forced the two sides to hasten efforts to increase their trade in whisky, cars and food.  
The deal, between the world's fifth and sixth-largest economies, has been concluded after years of stop-start negotiations and aims to increase bilateral trade by a further ₹25.5 billion (\$34 billion) by 2040 with liberal market access and eased trade restrictions.  
Under the deal, 99 per cent of Indian exports will benefit from zero duty access to the UK market, opening up opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textile, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys and gems and jewellery.  
In India, connoisseurs of

## BID TO UP VOLUMES BY ₹25.5BN

FOR UK EXPORTERS  
■ India to slash levies on 90% of British products, from whisky and medical devices to machinery and lamb, with 85% of those becoming tariff-free within a decade.  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the development as 'landmark' and 'mutually beneficial'.  
"In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial free trade agreement, along with a double convention agreement," adding that it would catalyse trade, investment, growth, job creation and innovation.  
British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, "Today we have agreed on a landmark deal with India — one of the fastest growing economies in the world, which will grow the

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"This is the biggest and most important pact that the UK has signed since Brexit. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world, and the fourth largest economy in the world and yet is only Britain's 11th largest trade partner," said Bilmoria.  
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) described the FTA as a "transformative accord". "Guided by the 2030 Roadmap, the timely agreement will help advance a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the UK, steering bilateral trade towards the ambitious target of \$100 billion by 2030," said CII president Sanjay Puri.  
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hailed the opening up of "massive export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys and gems and jewellery".  
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## Tenid listing for Ather

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
Calcutta: The first mainboard initial public offer of financial year 2025-26 from Ather Energy had a muted debut on Tuesday, a day market sentiments remained cautious and volatility was high amid escalating geopolitical tensions.  
Investment bankers and market analysts do not expect to see a rush of public issues now despite a healthy pipeline.  
The stocks of the electric two-wheeler ended at ₹202.50 at the Bombay Stock Exchange, down 7.22 per cent against its opening price and down 5.76 per cent from its issue price.  
Ather Energy became the second company in the segment to go public after Ola Electric, which was listed last year.  
At the highest end of the price range, the company's total IPO size is estimated at ₹2,981 crore, resulting in a valuation of ₹1,956 crore.  
"Ather Energy made a muted debut on the stock market, opening with a modest 2 per cent gain... The stock's weak listing and subsequent dip reflect cautious investor sentiment around its steep valuation," Gautav Garg, analyst at Lemons Markets, said.  
The order by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) came against the Gensol promoters amid accusations of siphoning off loan funds from the publicly-listed company, Gensol Engineering, for personal use, raising concerns about corporate governance and financial misconduct.  
Meanwhile, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is likely to complete the review of the financial statements of Gensol Engineering Ltd and BluSmart Mobility in six months.

## MCA orders Gensol probe

NEW DELHI: The corporate affairs ministry has ordered a probe into the affairs of crisis-hit Gensol Engineering and BluSmart Mobility for alleged violations of companies law, according to officials.  
Gensol Engineering came under the regulatory scanner for alleged fund diversions and corporate governance lapses after Sebi, in April, passed an order barring the company's promoters Anmol Singh Jagd and Puneet Singh Jagd from the Bombay Stock Exchange.  
Under Section 210 of the Companies Act, 2013, the ministry has powers to order a probe into the affairs of a company on various grounds, including in the public interest.  
Earlier, the ministry had said it would take necessary action in the matter after examining the Sebi order.

the procurement, which are being examined by the bank. Union Bank has said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday. At ₹118.35, the bank's shares were down 6.18 per cent on the Bombay Stock Exchange.  
The exchange filing came after it was reported that Union Bank ordered the copies of the book for distribution through the bank's zonal and regional offices, as part of its century-linked initiatives to promote economic awareness.  
However, the book's purchase has raised concerns over its necessity and the use of public money.  
The decision of the government-owned bank drew flak from the Congress, with the party claiming the govern-

## Airtel to bring Starlink data to Africa

NEW DELHI: Airtel Africa on Tuesday announced an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's high-speed internet services to its customers in Africa.  
At present, SpaceX has acquired requisite licences in nine out of 14 countries within Airtel Africa's market. Operational licences for the other five countries are under process.  
Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX — the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology.  
Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low Earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above earth).  
This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its mesh delivery network will enable Airtel to offer broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming and video calls.  
Announcing the pact with SpaceX for Starlink, Airtel Africa in a release on Tuesday said, "With this collaboration, Airtel Africa will further enhance its next-generation satellite connectivity offerings and augment connectivity for enterprises, businesses, and socio-economic communities like schools, health centres in even the most rural parts

## Sumitomo close to Yes Bank deal

Mumbai: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp is close to an agreement on acquiring a stake in Yes Bank with the Japanese firm eyeing a majority 51 per cent equity in the Indian lender, three sources familiar with the deal said on Tuesday.  
If the deal goes through, it could potentially be the largest in India's banking sector, where deal-making, especially involving foreign entities, is rare.  
Shares of Yes Bank soared nearly 10 per cent at one point on Tuesday. The stock closed at ₹17.94, up ₹0.21 or 1.18 per cent from Monday's close of ₹17.73.  
Restrictions on ownership, stricter capital requirements, and state domination of the banking sector have curbed foreign banks' operations in India.  
A takeover of troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank by Singapore-based DBS Group in 2020 was the last major deal in the sector.

## Gold surges ₹2400 to ₹99750

NEW DELHI: Gold prices surged by ₹2,400 to ₹99,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, as investors continued buying by jewellers and stocks, according to the All India Sarafa Association.  
On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had ended at ₹97,350 per 10 grams.  
In Calcutta, the price of pure gold rose by ₹3,100 to ₹97,500 from ₹94,400 on Monday.  
Extending the gains for the third straight day, gold of 99.5 per cent purity (hallmark gold) jumped ₹2,400 to ₹99,300 per 10 grams on Tuesday. It had closed at ₹96,900 per 10 grams in the previous close.  
"Gold prices edged higher as safe-haven demand returned following President Donald Trump's announcement of fresh tariff plans."  
"The proposed measures include duties on pharmaceutical imports and a steep 100 per cent tariff on movies produced outside the US — a move that stoked concerns over renewed trade tensions and their potential impact on global growth," Abans Financial Services' chief executive officer Chintan Mehta said.  
According to the Sarafa Association, silver prices also climbed ₹1,800 to ₹98,500 per kg.  
According to experts, market participants will focus on Wednesday's outcome of the US Federal Reserve's FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) policy meeting and Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary on growth and inflation.

## TCS pays 70% full variable pay

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services has paid out 100 per cent of the quarterly variable allowance (QVA) to more than 70 per cent of its workforce for the January-March quarter.  
The company clarified that for employees in other grades, the QVA payout is determined by the performance of their respective business units, which is consistent with TCS's established policy across quarters.  
"We have paid out 100 per cent QVA to over 70 per cent of the company. For all other grades, the QVA depends on their unit's business performance. This is in line with our standard practice across quarters," TCS said in a statement.  
TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) reported a 1.7 per cent decline in the March quarter net profit to ₹12,292 crore, driven largely by a margin contraction.  
The company logged a total revenue of ₹64,479 crore in Q4 FY25, up 5.3 per cent over the year-ago period.  
The company added 625 employees in the quarter, bringing its total workforce to over 6 lakh.  
While announcing its Q4 and FY25 earnings last month, TCS had said that it would be deferring annual wage hikes to its 6.07 lakh employees due to the business uncertainties triggered by the tariff issues.  
The company's chief human resources officer Mihind Lakhad chief business officer, who will be transitioning to the role of chief financial officer, announced the delay in annual wage hikes, which generally set in from April. He, however, did not give a timeline for when the company will announce the hikes.



Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO, ICHL

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Jonathan Reynolds and Piyush Goyal during trade talks in London. Reuters

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## GOOD NEWS

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HELD FOR  
₹2.7 CRORE  
ROBBERY  
FROM TAXI

TWO CITY SCHOOLS PLAN MOCK DRILLS P9 • HAWKERS REMOVED FROM NEW MARKET ROADS P8

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025

XXCE

## GOOD MORNING

### EVENTS

■ The Bhooma art society presents Parikrama, a journey of 15 years with a bouquet of painting, sculpture and photography. Academy of Fine Arts, noon to 8pm. (Till May 8)

### HS results today

■ **CALCUTTA:** The results of the state higher secondary exams will be out on May 7. The HS council said last week that the results can be viewed on and downloaded from several websites after 2pm on Wednesday. Some of the websites are: <https://results.digilocker.gov.in>; <http://www.indiaresults.com>; [www.results.sishskha.com](http://www.results.sishskha.com); <https://wb12.abplive.com>; [Result.net/wbchse-app](http://Result.net/wbchse-app) and [www.futuresult.in](http://www.futuresult.in).

### Spam detection

■ **CALCUTTA:** A telecom service provider has introduced a feature where businesses can display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen in an outgoing call. This will help people tell genuine calls from spam, the service provider said. The service, "business name display", has been launched by Airtel.

### Wall collapse

■ **TALLAH:** Four people were injured after portions of the boundary wall of a godown in Tallah caved in on Tuesday. The injured were treated and discharged from RG Kar hospital, police said.

### Madhyamik 2026

■ **CALCUTTA:** The state secondary education board has announced that next year's Madhyamik will start on February 2. The exams on first languages, second languages, history, geography, mathematics, physical science, life science and optional elective subjects will be held on February 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, respectively. In its May 6 notice, the board said the dates of physical education, social service and work education will be announced later.

## WEATHER

### YESTERDAY

■ **Maximum:** 34.5°C (1-2)

■ **Minimum:** 27.7°C (+0.9)

■ **RAINFALL:** Nil

■ **HUMIDITY:** Max: 88%; Min: 54%

### THE FORECAST

■ **Maximum** 35°C

■ **Minimum** 26°C

■ **EXPECTED:** Partly cloudy sky

■ **SUNSET** 6.06pm

■ **SUNRISE** 5.01am

# KMC halts axe on rooftop hangouts for 2 weeks

DEBRAJ MITRA AND  
TAPAS GHOSH

**Calcutta:** The high court on Tuesday kept in "abeyance" for two weeks the demolition order issued by the city's civic body for rooftop bars and restaurants, directing the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to "revert" documentation before taking further action.

"Even a party found to be in violation of the law is entitled to be dealt with in accordance with established legal procedures and not subjected to impulsive or arbitrary actions," Justice Gaurang Kanth stated in open court.

Last week, the KMC had issued notices to numerous rooftop establishments across the city demanding they "stop operations and demolish unauthorised structures immediately" or face demolition under Section 400(8) of the KMC Act.

Three popular city establishments with rooftop sections challenged the notices in court, with support from the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). The petition was heard by Justice Kanth on Tuesday.

While the court order restrains the petitioners from "carrying out any activities whatsoever at the disputed site" for two weeks, they may continue operating in their lower-floor sections. Since the NRAI is a petitioner, most restaurants with rooftop sections are expected to follow the same guidelines.

A senior state government official confirmed that the KMC will halt demolitions of all similar establishments "A few restaurants have moved the court. But, in principle, the case affects all rooftop establishments," the official said.



A rooftop pub in central Calcutta and (below) in south Calcutta. Pictures by Bishwarup Dutta



ishments," the official said.

### Key points from the order

Justice Kanth's order, uploaded to the court website on Tuesday evening, made several significant observations:

■ The central question is whether emergency action under Section 400(8) of the KMC Act is warranted.  
■ This court is conscious of the fact that the invocation of Section 400(1) and Section 400(8) serves distinct legal purposes. Section 400(1) generally addresses construction violations, while Section 400(8) should be invoked only when immediate action is necessary

to prevent imminent injury.

■ The discretion to determine which provision applies belongs solely to the competent authority, deemed to be an expert body.

■ Section 400(8) requires a conclusive opinion that the unauthorised structure poses an imminent threat to life or property. In the absence of such imminent danger, Section 400(8) should not be invoked at the preliminary stage, and the principles of natural justice must be observed.

■ The respondent authority (KMC) appears to have pursued demolition after failing

to prevent unauthorised construction and activity. As a statutory authority, it (KMC) must act reasonably, follow statutory guidelines, and avoid arbitrary application of the law.

■ The court has directed the KMC to revert all documentation and reach a fresh decision on whether Section 400(8) should be invoked.

■ Only if the KMC determines that a "grave emergency" exists may they proceed with demolition. Otherwise, affected establishments must be given a hearing opportunity first.

■ The aforesaid steps shall be undertaken and completed expeditiously, but in any event, not later than two weeks from the date of communication of this order.

■ In the interim, the impugned notice under Section 401 of the KMC Act shall remain in abeyance till the respondent takes a final decision. ■ The petitioners are restrained from carrying out any activities whatsoever at the disputed site.

The petitioners' counsel, Joydip Kar, argued that the establishments in question possessed all necessary permits.

This ruling follows recent demolitions at LMNOQ, a rooftop establishment at Colliery Park on Park Street, which occurred after chief minister Mamata Banerjee's surprise visit raised fire-safety concerns. Her inspection came in the wake of a devastating fire at Ritura Hotel in Burrabazar that claimed 14 lives on the night of April 29.

Justice Kanth had previously stayed LMNOQ's demolition until Thursday, the next hearing, and asked the KMC to provide legal justification for their actions.



Sacked school staff in front of the SSC office in Salt Lake last week

## Segregation possible: Panel review plea in SC

SUBHANKAR  
CHOWDHURY

**Calcutta:** The Bengal school service commission has contended in its review petition before the Supreme Court that when it was possible to segregate the tainted candidates, it was not clear why the court ordered the cancellation of the entire selection process.

The review petition says, "the commission's consistent stand before the High Court and before this court is that the segregation of tainted from untainted in respect of the entire selection lot is possible."

The SSC has attached a chart in the petition detailing how the tainted can be segregated from the untainted.

The SSC has said the apex court's April 17 order that teachers "not specifically found to be tainted" could go to school till December 31 was "premised" in a way that suggested segregation was possible.

In such a scenario, cancelling the whole panel amounted to "miscarriage of justice" and needs to be reviewed, the petition says.

This newspaper has gone through the text of the review petition.

In it, the SSC has said the en masse termination of

teaching and non-teaching jobs has landed the school education system in trouble and handed an advantage to "private unaided schools leading to exploitation".

The petition says, "The order passed on 17.04.2025... is premised in a way which itself segregates tainted and untainted... but still the entire selection came to be cancelled." After the April 17 order, which the Supreme Court passed following a petition by the state secondary education board, the commission identified 15,403 teachers at the secondary and higher secondary level as "not specifically tainted" and allowed them to return to school till December 31 and draw salaries.

The commission identified 1,804 teachers as tainted and barred them from returning to school.

"The apex court must take cognisance of the fact that the SSC could segregate the candidates based on the evidence it has. Therefore, the decision to cancel the whole panel must be reconsidered while adjudicating on the review petition," said an official of the education department.

The petition was filed in the Supreme Court on May 3. It is likely to be heard on Thursday.

The petition says the Su-

preme Court "incorrectly concluded that there were systematic irregularities" without a finding on whether the data recovered by the CBI was reliable. "Without a finding regarding the reliability of the data, this court incorrectly concluded that there were systematic irregularities or widespread manipulations and thus cancelled the entire selection process."

It says, "Further, systematic fraud has not been judicially established. The CBI investigation is ongoing and merely chargesheets came to be filed and no convictions have been recorded. The court's finding of widespread fraud is based on unproven allegations, contrary to the principle of presumption of innocence."

The SSC has challenged the Supreme Court's April 3 order in which the court said appointing school staff after the expiry of the date of the panel, such appointments cannot be said to be illegal and contrary to rules.

SSC chairperson Siddhartha Majumdar declined to comment.

## KMC mulls joint scan on outlets

SUBHAJOY ROY

**Calcutta:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation is considering joint inspections of rooftop restaurants and bars in the city with other government wings, like the fire and excise directorates, in the wake of the high court asking the civic body to give owners of such establishments the opportunity of a hearing.

A joint hearing might follow the inspection. During Tuesday's hearing at Calcutta High Court, the counsel for three rooftop establishments told the court that they had obtained the excise licence, trade licence, fire-safety licence, food licence and licence granted by police.

A senior KMC official said none of the other departments had informed them about any licence being revoked.

A fire licence is issued by the fire directorate after checking for fire safety measures. An excise licence is required to serve liquor.

"We have to plan whether

we will conduct hearings on our own or if there should be joint hearings where officials from the excise and fire directorates are present. Some establishments might have some deficiencies that excise or the fire brigade can spot. A joint hearing could be an ideal platform to discuss them," said a senior KMC official.

"A joint inspection should ideally precede the hearings because we should have full knowledge of the status of the establishments, what their deficiencies are and what needs to be done to address them."

Justice Gaurang Kanth's order on Tuesday said the court "deems it appropriate to remand the matter to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for verification of the relevant documents, facts, and figures."

It said: "Upon such verification, KMC shall arrive at a fresh decision as to whether the invocation of Section 400(8) of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act is warranted."

The section empowers

the "mayor-in-council" of the KMC to demolish an unauthorised structure "forthwith".

The KMC official said the civic body was also planning to send notices to more establishments, beyond the list of 83 prepared by the police, running from a terrace and blocking access to the roof.

Some restaurants mentioned on the police's list are not on terraces. Civic officials, however, said some of the restaurants and bars located on lower floors violated rules by encroaching on the fire refuge.

They had extended their restaurants to the fire refuge of the floor.

The KMC officials have insisted over the past few days that neither a trade licence nor payment of property tax validated an illegal structure. They said only if the structure had a sanctioned building plan, it would be considered legal.

Till Tuesday evening, none of the rooftop restaurants,

bars and cafes had approached the civic body with a sanctioned building plan.

"We have checked our records and did not find that any of these rooftop establishments were issued a sanctioned building plan. Neither has anyone approached us with a valid building plan. If they come to us with a sanctioned building plan, we will examine it," said the official.

"The primary question in determining legality is whether the sanctioned building permit allowed construction on the roof," a KMC official said.

"We issue certificates of enlistment to businesses under the case of doing business scheme based on self-declaration, which is standard practice nationwide," the official said.

However, the certificate states that all other statutory requirements must be met. Property tax is collected because of civic services — like water and drainage infrastructure — used by the building.

took place within a fortnight. "The programme will help strengthen the bond among us. If we get to know each other better, we could help each other in times of distress," a student said.

An IIT official said they were treading cautiously on the resumption because of the controversy that the programme had earlier caused.

A petition filed by Faizan's parents in Calcutta High Court in 2022 said Faizan had been killed in a part of "assimilation programmes" at the Rajendra Prasad Hall of Residence in February and March 2022, and was murdered by senior students because of his stand.

## 'ASSIMILATION' TO BE UNDER SUPERVISION OF AUTHORITIES

# IIT to bring back student bonding programme

SUBHANKAR  
CHOWDHURY

**Kharagpur:** IIT Kharagpur has decided to reintroduce its assimilation programme to improve bonding among students following the spate of deaths on the campus.

The assimilation programme, which used to last for a week, aims to orient new students to academic and campus life and help them get acquainted with the institution's culture and resources. Senior students help juniors get acquainted. The IIT authorities had stopped the programme in June 2023, after the family of Faizan Ahmed, a

third-year student who was found dead on the campus in October 2022, called it "a glorified term for collective ragging" by senior students.

Now, the programme will be held under the supervision of the IIT administration to prevent chances of ragging, said Amit Patra, acting director of IIT Kharagpur and also director of IIT BHU (Varanasi).

Patra said: "Once the bonding increases, students will know more about each other. They would know about the difficulties faced by others and share inputs with the hall presidents, chosen from among the students. The hall presidents might



IIT Kharagpur

alert the administration about vulnerable cases. This could help us track difficulties students are encountering... We will ensure the programme is not reduced to the level of ragging."

He said students' representatives raised this when he met them on Monday. "The programme will now

be conducted under the watch of wardens and assistant wardens of the respective halls of residence so no complaints of ragging emerge. Students would opt a pattern, which we have approved," he said.

An IIT official said representatives of the Technology Students Gymkhana (TSG), the student body of IIT Kharagpur, wanted the programme resumed when the administration sought their suggestions on preventive measures after three students were found dead on the campus in the past four months.

The last two student deaths — Aniket Walker from Maharashtra and Md Asif Quamar from Bihar —

## The Telegraph CLASSIFIED

### The Telegraph

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TRIPURA: ₹6.00.

ROAD / RAIL SURCHARGE

ASSAM: ₹3.00.

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### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that one of our clients intends to purchase a Flat No. 1A, 1st floor, containing an area of 1181 sq.ft. approximately at holding No. 105, Deshpande Sasmal Road, Ward No. 18, P.S. & Dist. Howrah from its existing owners.

Any person having any claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said Flat or any part thereof or having any objection to the sale of the said Flat, his/her claim, demand or objection in writing together with supporting documents to the following address within 10 (ten) days from publication of this notice, failing which the transaction will be completed immediately.

For (Sudeshna Bagchi) Partner  
My Client Jahar Halder, had a registered deed bearing number 493, which was registered in the year 1994 at the Budge Budge registry office. The said deed has been unintentionally lost. If any person or organization has any information regarding this deed or happens to find it, kindly contact me within 7 days. P.S. Nodakhal, GDE NO. 18/25, Date 01/05/2025. Advocate: Sangeta Halder, Ph: 967486352. ACRBARCS: 1917805

### EDUCATION

#### PRIVATE TUTOR

EXPERIENCED Biology & Environmental SC Teacher for CBSE & ICSE at South Kolkata. M 964443056. 09810482618 — 09171300

thereafter presuming there is no claim, demand or objection existing. Dated this 6th day of May, 2025.

Yours faithfully,  
For-Victor Moses & Co. Sd/-  
(For Sudeshna Bagchi)

ATTACHMENTS — 0017020  
My Client Jahar Halder, had a registered deed bearing number 493, which was registered in the year 1994 at the Budge Budge registry office. The said deed has been unintentionally lost. If any person or organization has any information regarding this deed or happens to find it, kindly contact me within 7 days. P.S. Nodakhal, GDE NO. 18/25, Date 01/05/2025. Advocate: Sangeta Halder, Ph: 967486352. ACRBARCS: 1917805

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The Telegraph



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### 3 held for ₹2.66 crore robbery in taxi

NRI quota. Several names had emerged during the searches and seizures that resulted in the fresh raids on Tuesday.



# Mock drills at La Martiniere schools

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: At least two city schools will train students in drills and don't if an alarm goes off in the event of a war-like situation.

The La Martiniere schools said that on Wednesday, the fire alarm will go off at 11.30am in the boys' school and 12.30pm in the girls' school to practice how to evacuate students quickly and take them to a safe place.

The drill will be for students of Classes VI to XII. "We decided to conduct the mock drill in both schools. The NCC (National Cadet Corps) wing of the boys' school will conduct the mock drill on both campuses," said Supriyo Dhar, secretary, La Martiniere schools.

The drill will include the teachers and non-teaching staff of the schools.

"Being ready psychologically is important. Physical reflexes work better when one is prepared mentally," said Rupkatha Sarkar, principal, La Martiniere for Girls.

The Union home ministry on Monday asked several states to conduct mock drills on May 7.

The measures to be taken include operationalising air raid sirens and training people in civil defence measures.

"An alarm will go off at



La Martiniere for Girls

11.30am, when students are in their classrooms. In case there is any emergency or an attack, what should the action plan be so that students and teachers are safe. It will be a short drill focusing on the basics of 'evacuation,' said a teacher at La Martiniere for Boys, who is part of the NCC unit of the school.

Sports teacher Pranjal Sur, also part of the NCC unit, said the drill would include training students to take the nearest exit and go to a safe place.

"Every floor has an exit plan. The class teachers and subject teachers would guide the students to take the

nearest exit," said Sur.

"We will have two NCC army wing staff who will draw up the final guidelines of the mock drill. The army staff are expected to show the students camouflage and life-saving drills," he said.

## Celsius to touch 38° by weekend

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: The Met office has sounded a heatwave alert for the western districts of south Bengal from Thursday. Bankura, Jhargram, West Burdwan and Purulia are among the places

where the heatwave is likely. In Calcutta, the day temperature is likely to reach 38 degrees by the start of the weekend. Tuesday's maximum temperature was 34.5 degrees, a notch below normal. The Met office shared a thunderstorm alert late after

noon. But only some parts of the city got some winds and a few drops of rain till 8pm.

"Due to favourable wind patterns and moisture incursion from Bay of Bengal, thunderstorm activity is likely over the districts of West Bengal over the next 24 hours. Thereafter, a change in wind pattern is

very likely to occur and mainly dry westerly to northwesterly wind likely to prevail over the region and consequently heat wave conditions are very likely to occur over some districts of south Bengal from May 8," said a Met bulletin.

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency**  
**Project Circle No. 01 Bastar**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING BIDS**  
 NIT No. 172 & 173 / TS 1695 & 1696/ CGRDA / 2025 Bastar Date: 05/05/2025

The Superintending Engineer, Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency, Project Circle No. 01 Bastar on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites Online percentage rate bids from the eligible contractors / Firms registered with unified registration system (e-registration with Public Works Department). Details are as under :-

Sr. No.	NIT No.	District	Block	Scheme	Name of Work	Tender Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	No. of Call	SOR Applied
1	172	Sukma	Chhindigarh	Niyad Neflanar Yojana by Special Assistance (SCA)	Construction of road Silga Jagrunda road in Budar Length 3.00	116.92	1 <sup>st</sup> Call	SOR of CGRDA No. 122.02.2018
2	173	Dantewada and Sukma	Dantewada, Geddand, Katakalan, Kuskondu, Sukma and Korta	PMGSY/M MGSY/V	Zonal Contract for Patch repair / Maintenance / Renewal / Special Repair / Minor Work of Constructed Rural Roads.	600.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Call	SOR of CGRDA No. 122.02.2018

Date of release of invitation for bids through e-procurement : 08/05/2025 After 17:30 Hours.

nd  
 Superintending Engineer,  
 Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency,  
 Project Circle No. 01 Bastar  
 Dist. Bastar (C.G.).  
 E-mail : circle1gdp@gmail.com

Samvad-43769/3

**Pune Municipal Corporation - Health Department**  
**Tender Cell Department**  
**Tender Advertisement**

Sr.	Particulars	Date
1.	Tender Form Sale Period	07/05/2025
2.	Tender Form Receiving Period	07/05/2025
3.	Bid Submission End Date	16/05/2025
4.	Tender Opening Date	19/05/2025
5.	Pre-Bid Meetings Date	14/05/2025

Tender No.	Department Name	Name of Work	Tender Fees	B1/B2	EMD Amt.	Period of Work	Contact Person Mobile No.
PMC/Health/ CMS/ 02/2025-26	Health	Purchase of All Types of Medicines and Medical Appliances etc. on daily basis for Urban Poor Health Scheme (E.B.S.) From License Holder Medicine Supplier.	17879/-	B-1	8,00,000/-	24 Months	Rahul Namdev Wadga 9881190696

Sd/-  
 Dr. Sanjeev Wavare  
 Asst. Medical Officer of Health  
 Pune Municipal Corporation

Sd/-  
 Dr. Nina Borade  
 Medical Officer of Health  
 Pune Municipal Corporation

Advt No- 393

**CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)**  
 Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Durgapur-713209, West Bengal

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
 No. 04/253/25-26/CC/Capital/ESD Date: 05.05.2025

Online Item Rate e-tenders are invited on two bid system from contractors of appropriate class of CPWD/PPWD/Railways/MES/P&T/PSUs and/or from those who have carried out similar works for Central/State Government, Autonomous Bodies, Semi-Govt. Organizations or working contractor of any CSIR Lab./Instt. The tenders are required to produce proof of fulfilling all the conditions along with copies of PAN, GST no. and Valid trade licenses certificate, while making request for issue of Tender documents. The tender notice, tender qualification, NIT etc. is on Central Public Procurement Portal (<http://www.etenders.gov.in>). The tender shall be accepted through e-tender mode only (<http://www.etenders.gov.in>).

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	1) Estimated Cost (Rs.)	2) EMD (Rs.)
1.	Treatment of roof and seepage of staff quarters at colony premises in CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur-713209.	1) 54,60,413.00	2) 1,09,209.00

Tender ID: 2025\_CSIR\_234561\_1, Publishing Dt. 07.05.2025

For further details, amendments, Corrigendum, extension of NIT or revision, please visit our website <https://www.cmeri.res.in> & <http://www.etenders.gov.in>. The Director, CSIR-CMERI reserves the right to reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reason. (The Director, CSIR-CMERI)

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**"THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS"**  
 Tender Notice No. S/2025/98 Date: 05.05.2025

The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarters, 3rd floor, Near Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the president of India is invited open E-tenders on [www.nwrps.gov.in](http://www.nwrps.gov.in) site as follows. All the E-tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

Sr. Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due Date
1 30252127	Secondary vertical damper	2034	Nos.	23.05.25
2 37252770	Gaurd's Chair	1231	Nos.	30.05.25
3 65245022A	ECOT Crane 65/10 Ton	2	Nos.	26.05.25
4 65255009	Design, manufacturing, supply, installation, testing, commissioning of Electric Overhead Travelling Crane of Capacity 20 Ton	2	Nos.	09.06.25

**CORRIGENDUM**

Sr. No.	Tender No.	NIT No.	Description	Amendment in NIT/condition document	Existing Date	Revised Date
1	6324ENG 35	S/2025/90 Dt. 28.02.2025	Running Contract for manufacturing and supply of Wearable CMS Crossing RD50 DRG. No. T-6412	Minor Change in Item Description, NIT Conditions & some NIT Documents is Added/ deleted.	01.04.25	13.05.25

Note: (1) Interested tenders may visit the website [nwrps.gov.in](http://nwrps.gov.in) for Full details/ description/Specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenders are requested to obtain digital signatures and get the registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit [www.nwrps.gov.in](http://www.nwrps.gov.in)

516-DR/25

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## MANGALAM VIDYA NIKETAN

KAIKHALI, CHIRIAMORE, KOLKATA-700136

(Affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi)

### TOPPERS OF ICSE 2025

School Highest - 98.8%  
 School Average - 88.49%

LAKSHITA RATHI  
97.6% COMMERCEAADRIK SAHA  
99.2% SCIENCERISHAN CHOWDHURY  
97% SCIENCEANIYA SINGHA  
97% SCIENCESOUMYA JAISWAL  
97% COMMERCEMEHAK AGARWAL  
97% COMMERCEHANS JAISWAL  
96.2% SCIENCEPRASHANSA AGARWAL  
96.2% SCIENCEROHAN MISHRA  
95.8% SCIENCEPRACHI MISHRA  
95.8% SCIENCECHIRAG MEHRA  
95.8% COMMERCEAYUSH DEY  
95.6% SCIENCEAKSHARA GUPTA  
95.6% COMMERCEAISHIK KUNDU  
95.2% SCIENCEANSHUMAN TIWARI  
95.2% SCIENCEKRITI MUNDHRA  
95.2% COMMERCE

### TOPPERS OF ISC 2025

School Highest - 98.5%  
 School Average - 84.86%

SIDHDI LADHA  
98.5% COMMERCEDEEPIKA AGARWAL  
97.25% COMMERCERAJIKA CHANDAK  
97% COMMERCEAASHI AGARWAL  
96.75% COMMERCEYASH VARDHAN MUNDHRA  
95.5% COMMERCEDISHITA SHAH  
95% SCIENCEMAHI AGARWAL  
94.75% SCIENCEAVNI BAJORIA  
94.5% COMMERCEDEBADRITO DEBNATH  
94.25% SCIENCEGARV AGARWAL  
94% SCIENCESHUBHANGI JHA  
94% SCIENCEANUSHRI AGARWAL  
93.5% COMMERCEABHISEK AGARWAL  
93.5% COMMERCEARIHANT JAIN  
92.75% COMMERCEJAA VANISHITTA  
92.5% SCIENCE



## MOOD MATTERS

The war drums have, unfortunately, been sounded in both India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the terrorist strike in Pahalgam. But the beats seem to differ a bit. In India, the media has been the principal war-monger, drumming up public sentiment in favour of an aggressive response. The story in Pakistan, evidently, is more complicated because there seems to be a discernible gap between the political and the public responses to the possibility of conflict. Pakistan's Establishment — the military leadership, especially the hawkish army chief, Asim Munir, along with the civilian government — has adhered to predictable, thunderous rhetoric. But the civilian reaction, unlike that in 2019 when there was a military escalation between the two nations, has been circumspect. Two principal reasons are being cited to explain this phenomenon. The first pertains to Pakistan's economy. High inflation and joblessness are matters consuming the *aam aadmi* in Pakistan. That the economy is being helped to breathe by largesse from the International Monetary Fund must be weighing on the minds of Pakistan's civilian constituency. In fact, Moody's latest prediction about prolonged tensions with India being injurious to Pakistan's limping economy is likely to sullen the public mood further. The second, and equally important, factor concerns a slight shift in the compact between Rawalpindi and ordinary Pakistanis. Pakistan's army undoubtedly commands public fealty. But there are also signs of stress, especially after the ouster of Imran Khan — a favourite of the man of the street — by the army. That Mr Munir is Mr Khan's chief adversary in the corridors of power has added to the complications in the ties between the military and the people of Pakistan. These developments in Pakistan merit an enquiry: could economic distress and a weakened democracy function as anti-war devices?

New Delhi must take note of this state of public disaffection with the powers that be in its recalcitrant neighbour. A full-scale conflict could make Pakistanis stand behind the civil-military apparatus. Perhaps there is wisdom in India utilising the sombre public mood in Pakistan to its advantage; leveraging it to bring pressure on Pakistan's deep State that facilitates cross-border terrorism could be one option that can be looked into. Piling further economic pressure on its beleaguered economy, as opposed to a full-blown conflict, in conjunction with a reasoned strategic response is the need of the hour.

## WAR AND PEACE

Interference in academic matters has almost become commonplace in Indian universities. At a meeting of the Standing Committee on Academic Matters of Delhi University, the chairperson objected to the inclusion of the Kashmir issue and the Israel-Palestine conflict as case studies in the section named the 'Psychology of Peace' in the proposed psychology syllabus. The case studies were part of the chapter on conflict and conflict resolution. The chairperson said that the Kashmir issue had been 'resolved' — this, despite the recent bloodshed in Pahalgam — and there was no need for lessons on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The logic is elusive. The aim of the section was to help students understand the concepts of peace, its need, peace process and its psychology. If the Kashmir issue was already resolved, then there could be nothing better for students to understand the process. The subject of the Israel-Palestine conflict, historical as well as current, would be enormously helpful in exploring the psychology of conflict and the failure of peace processes. But the chairperson's reason to excise it was that it was unnecessary. Evidently he does not mind if students remain ignorant of the world they live in. His objections have been criticised as politically motivated and as ideological interference in academic matters. More so, because he said that students should learn from ancient Indian texts such as the *Mahabharata* and the *Gita* to gain an indigenous perspective on peace.

The chairperson's intervention raises an issue that is independent of his point of view. Would ancient texts be more illuminating than current or recent events in understanding conflict, its resolution, and the psychology of peace? Certainly, the ancient story of a conflict that could have been avoided might be useful given that the social arrangements, reasons for the conflict, and efforts at peace were unlike those in present times. There is no harm in a plurality of perspectives. But present or recent conflicts and their resolution — when that happens — are more meaningful because they are contemporary; they are familiar contentions of ethnicity, ideology or territorial aggression set in a world of known social dispensations, modern ideas and thinking processes, recognisable faces and forms of resistance. Both perspectives can be included for a full understanding; excluding specific case studies to satisfy ideological inclinations is an assault on academic autonomy and a harmful narrowing of academic vision.

## SCRIPSI

The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains.  
KARL MARX

## Why should anyone continue being Left?

# Beacon of hope

PRABHAT PATNAIK

The Soviet Union has collapsed; whether China remains socialist has become a matter for research. The question, therefore, arises: why should anyone, other than a person with a religious streak, continue being Left and believing in a socialist future for mankind? This question would indeed have been quite cliché if the recent decline of the Left had been accompanied by a flourishing of capitalism; that would have proved that the Left's decline was because of a fundamental flaw in its theoretical underpinnings.

The world today, however, is characterised by a capitalism that is afflicted not just by a massive economic crisis and political repression but it is also actually presiding over a genocide on a scale unprecedented in living memory. The only liveable future one can visualise for mankind today is a socialist future whose arrival may be painful and delayed but is essential for escaping from the present morass.

The economic crisis is obvious. From the finding by the American economist, Joseph Stiglitz, that the real wage of an average male American worker in 2011 was marginally lower than that in 1983 to the overwhelming evidence of an increase in nutritional deprivation in India and in much of the Global South between 1993-94 and 2011-12, it is clear that even the heyday of neoliberal capitalism had seen a process of absolute immiseration of the working people everywhere; the slowdown in the world economy following the collapse of the US housing 'bubble', which has now morphed into a secular stagnation, and mounting unemployment has made matters far worse for them.

The Keynesian prescription of a rise in State expenditure to counter sluggish demand does not work under neoliberal capitalism. State expenditure can increase employment only if it is financed either by a larger fiscal deficit or by larger taxes on the rich; taxing the working people and using the tax-proceeds for raising State expenditure do not increase aggregate demand since the working people consume much of their incomes anyway.

Both these ways of financing larger State expenditure are anathema for finance capital. Since finance today is globalised while States remain nation-states, the latter must defer to the wishes of the former to avoid debilitating capital flights. This rules out the Keynesian remedy for countering stagnation; it makes the nation-states powerless to overcome it. Not surprisingly, there is a strong neo-fascist upsurge all over the world that is supported by monopoly capitalism. Since finance is a reactionary discourse so that the hegemony of monopoly capital faces no threat from the ongoing crisis. In India, this

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alliance between neo-fascism and monopoly capital has taken the form of a corporate-Hindutva alliance.

The neo-fascist discourse shifts attention from the prevailing economic distress of the working people and focuses instead on a hapless minority whom it 'Others' and against whom it generates hatred within the majority; this has the added 'advantage' from the point of view of monopoly capital of disrupting the unity of the working people and preventing any collective action on their part against its hegemony. At present, capitalism, therefore, has brought both economic distress for the people and political repression that are unprecedented at least over the last half-century. Moreover, there is no possibility of an end to this state of affairs within neoliberal capitalism: the same constraints that prevent State intervention for overcoming the crisis within a liberal bourgeois dispensation also apply when the State is headed by neo-fascists.

Donald Trump's resort to higher tariffs must be seen in this context. Since demand cannot be increased through State expenditure, the only way to increase demand for any particular country is by snatching it away from other countries by pursuing what is called 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, before the fascist governments in Japan and Germany had expanded demand by increasing military expenditure and financing it by massive fiscal deficits (they could do this because finance capital was not globalised but national and could be cajoled into accepting larger

fiscal deficits), there had been a spate of 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies through competitive exchange rate depreciations following the collapse of the Gold Standard.

Trump has started a similar 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policy using tariffs as the weapon. The success of such a policy for any particular country depends upon whether other countries retaliate; if they do, then all countries become even worse off collectively than they were before the spate of competitive 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies began. In the present case, countries of the Global South are likely to be brow-beaten into eschewing retaliation, even bringing down their own tariffs in exchange for the Americans not raising theirs. This would further squeeze the working people in the Global South, especially farmers in a country like India, destroy food security, and expose these countries to the danger of famines; Africa, with its foodgrain self-sufficiency abandoned earlier, provides a classic example of this.

While the economic distress and political repression unleashed by contemporary capitalism are evident, some may object to my including the Gaza genocide among the crimes of capitalism. How does capitalism, they would ask, enter the picture here? Let us for the moment accept their argument, ignoring the unanimous support that Benjamin Netanyahu is getting from big capitalist powers and the obvious plan of imperialism to use Israel as its *gendarme* in the Middle-east. Even then, it is undeniable that the Left everywhere is the most consistent force standing up for the Palestinians. Its historical role for mankind's survival and for the preservation of sanity is unquestionable.

# What the male gaze desires

SREEDEEP BHATTACHARYA

The male gaze has existed since time immemorial. But the advent of the camera and print technology made that gaze penetrative and pervasive. The invention of male and female pornography of these two technologies, which facilitated the reproduction of images, accelerated the objectification of the female body. Other forms of technological mediation — from video to virtual reality — have further advanced the conversion of flesh into fetish.

Gaze is not just an act of looking; the term connotes inequality of power. The male gaze conceives the woman as an object of desire and pleasure, denying the woman any agency. The market not only facilitates such an objectification but also normalises its access and naturalises its excess across media platforms. The fragmented female body, dissociated from her persona, thus becomes a popular global commodity.

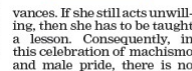
But the desirable female body must conform to certain standards pertaining to size, weight, height and skin colour. An entire regime of exercise, diet, grooming, cosmetics, supervision, surgery aligns to make the body dazzle before it is put on display to lure attention. Patriarchal capitalism has convinced us of the importance of gazing at the 'idealised' body. Any other body type is useless for the mass production and the mass consumption of the desirable body.

It is imperative for the patriarchal fiction to project men as being in charge as chasers and women being passive recipients. The pornography industry is the epitome of patriarchy's imaginative bankruptcy. It produces the most blatant displays of male lust. Bodies, intimacy, sexuality — everything is thoroughly disembodied and disjoined within the pornographic gaze. Implicit and apparent in this disposition and display is the question of who has the power to control and display women's bodies, to what extent, and for whom? These are not ethical questions concerning

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nudity, its social acceptability, or its aesthetic rendering. These queries are about the possession, projection and production of women's bodies to cater to the male gaze, to male validation; it is about a process that degrades the dignity of women and turns them into subjects of objectification.

Objectification need not be confined to visibility only. Social practices such as teasing and coercion can be deployed towards the submission of women in a bid to valorise the idea of male conquest. If she is too eager, then she can be subjected to moral judgement. In case she resists, the resistance should be broken through undue ad-



vances. If she still acts unwilling, then she has to be taught a lesson. Consequently, in this celebration of machismo and male pride, there is no concept of consent.

There is no dearth of the patriarchal valorisation of men as producers, protectors and primary decision-makers that reduce the role of women to reproducers, service providers and passive receivers. This kind of gender-stereotyping and gender-performativity has been used to reinforce relations of domination and subordination for centuries. What must also be noted is the patriarchal notion of pleasure. This idea of pleasure is built through the perceived subordination and disempowerment of women.

In her pathbreaking book, *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir wrote, "she could only win by losing, so she remains lost." This sentiment is perhaps borne out by the pervasiveness of the male gaze.

## Shared resource

■ Sir — While all eyes are on India and Pakistan, the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, another contest over the sharing of water is brewing within the country. The escalating dispute between Punjab and Haryana over water allocation from the Bhakra Beas Management Board is alarming. While Punjab's concerns regarding uncompleted aquifers are valid, physical obstruction of Central infrastructure undermines the rule of law. Both states must exhibit statesmanship and restraint. Provoking public sentiment on such an emotive issue is risky. The Centre should act as a neutral mediator, ensuring that historical grievances do not overshadow present responsibilities. River waters are not political trophies but life-giving resources that must be managed with wisdom, fairness, and cooperation, not brinkmanship.

Satyajit Mallick, Siliguri

■ Sir — It is deeply concerning to witness the resurgence of hostilities between Punjab and Haryana over river water distribution. History offers grim warnings: the Dharma Yudh Morcha and subsequent insurgencies had devastating consequences. Resolving tensions through aggressive actions and emotive rhetoric risks destabilising a sensitive border state. The BBMB must remain impartial and all parties should adhere to established norms. The people deserve leadership that seeks equita-



## Not so hidden

■ Sir — Everything — from art galleries to trendy cafes — is a 'hidden gem' according to social media influencers. The question that needs to be asked here, though, is this: who is it hidden from? Youngsters who have clearly spent most of their lives in their homes surfing the internet seem to think every *paraphernalia dokaan*, which does brisk business, is a hidden gem because they have little exposure to the outside world. Places like Cafe, Sengul Valley, and Dilkhusha are hardly hidden from Calcuttans. The same goes for places like Bot-chitra Gallery and Golpark's second-hand book stalls. Generations of people visit these places. Rather than being hidden gems, these places are an inseparable part of the city's life. Young people should enjoy them without their phone cameras.

Ashok Kumar Kar, Calcutta

ble and lasting solutions, not performative gestures. Water security can only be achieved through unity and scientific planning, not by repeating the mistakes of past decades.

Priyanshi Dash, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

■ Sir — The ongoing dispute between Punjab and Haryana has become a political spectacle, overshadowing

regional one-upmanship. The BBMB and the Centre must ensure that justice prevails without inciting further divisions.

Tousik Rahman, South 24 Parganas

■ Sir — As the BBMB dispute intensifies, it is essential for the Centre to act swiftly and impartially. Perceptions of favouritism, whether justified or not, could inflame tensions and compromise the credibility of federal governance. It is crucial that the Central government facilitates respectful dialogue between Punjab and Haryana while reinforcing that no state has the right to act unilaterally over national infrastructure. Water sharing must be governed by law, not sentiment. Silence or bias at this juncture could erode public trust in national institutions.

Masihullah Qasmi Pakahi, Lucknow

■ Sir — It is disheartening to observe political parties in Punjab and Haryana using the water-sharing issue to fan



regional sentiments. With Punjab facing severe groundwater depletion and Haryana viewing the river as its lifeline, the path forward lies in scientific assessment, fair allocation, and cooperative federalism. Politicians must resist exploiting public emotion for short-term gain.

Amir Zaman, Meghalaya

## Historic mistake

■ Sir — The proposal to reopen the Alcatraz prison as a symbol of 'law and order' is deeply troubling. Such a gesture revives memories of harsh, punitive measures and authoritarian ideals rather than addressing modern justice reform. Alcatraz, with its grim legacy, should remain a historical site reminding society of past excesses. The focus ought to be on rehabilitation and humane incarceration. Restoring a notorious prison for political theatre reflects poorly on democratic values. The justice system deserves progressive policies rooted in evidence. But the president of the United States of America, Donald Trump, does not understand this.

Bal Govind, Noida

■ Sir — Alcatraz was closed for sound reasons: exorbitant costs, severe conditions, and an outdated penal philosophy. Revisiting such a failed model suggests a retreat from more enlightened justice approaches. Public resources would be better allocated towards improving rehabilitation, addressing root causes

of crime, and reforming overcrowded prison systems. Romanticising a facility once known as 'Devil's Island' signals a shift towards performative governance rather than meaningful policy. History has taught valuable lessons; reopening Alcatraz would be an act of historical amnesia, not strength.

Mohammad Asad, Mumbai

## Travel in style

■ Sir — The recent viral video of four impeccably-be-



Stylish traveller  
hired cats travelling to Paris highlights what responsible pet ownership and patient training can achieve. In an age when air travel often brings tales of stress and disruption, this feline quartet provided a refreshing example of calm companionship.

M. Jeyaram, Sholacandan, Tamil Nadu

Letters should be sent to: The Telegraph, 6 Prafulla Sarkar Street, Kolkata 700001. tedit@abp.in





#### THE TIP

To build a strong team, develop a regular ritual such as a daily tea break, a weekly lunch or after-work drinks

The Telegraph

# WELLNESS

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025

## STRIKE THREE

New research says 17 overlapping factors affect risk of stroke, dementia and late-life depression. **Nina Agrawal** on lifestyle changes to lower risk

**A**lthough they may appear unrelated, people who have dementia, depression or who experience a stroke often end up having one or both of the other conditions too, said Dr Sanjula Singh, a principal investigator at the Brain Care Labs at Massachusetts General Hospital, US, and the lead author of the study. That's because they may share underlying damage to small blood vessels in the brain, experts said.

Some of the risk factors common to the three brain diseases, including high blood pressure and diabetes, appear to cause this kind of damage. Research suggests that at least 60 per cent of strokes, 40 per cent of dementia cases and 35 per cent of late-life depression cases could be prevented or slowed by controlling risk factors.

"Those are striking numbers," said Dr Stephanie Collier, director of education in the division of geriatric psychiatry at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, US. "If you can really optimise the lifestyle pieces or the modifiable pieces, then you're at such a higher likelihood of living life without disability."

Often, the risk factors for these diseases are interconnected, and addressing one — for example, getting more exercise by going for routine walks with a friend — can also help you address others, like excess weight and social isolation.

"If you're starting to work on one of them, very often you're actually improving multiple at the same time," Dr Singh said. "That's a great way to start."

#### Protective Factors

The study, which looked at data from 59 meta-anal-



**SMART MOVE:** Tasks such as reading, solving puzzles or playing chess protect against brain diseases

yses, identified six factors that lower your risk of brain diseases:

- Low to moderate alcohol intake (consuming one to three drinks a day had a smaller benefit than consuming less than one drink a day)
- Cognitive activity, meaning regular engagement in mentally stimulating tasks such as reading or doing puzzles or playing chess
- A diet high in vegetables, fruit, dairy, fish and nuts
- Moderate or high levels of physical activity
- A sense of purpose in life
- An active social life and a large social network.

#### Factors That Increase Risk

The study also identified 13 health characteristics and habits that make you more likely to develop dementia, a stroke or late-life depression. (Altogether, the protective and harmful factors add up to 19 factors because two of them, diet and social connections, can increase or decrease risk, depending on their type and quality.)

- High blood pressure
- High body mass index
- High blood sugar
- High total cholesterol
- Depressive symptoms
- A diet high in red meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, sweets and sodium

- Hearing loss
- Kidney disease
- Pain, particularly forms that interfere with activity
- Sleep disturbances (for example, insomnia or poor sleep quality) or sleep periods longer than eight hours
- Smoking history
- Loneliness or isolation
- General stress or stressful life events (as reported by study subjects)

The study only looked at risk factors linked to two or more of the three conditions. It did not prove that these risk factors directly cause the diseases — all it showed was an association.

Trying to tackle all of

these behaviours for brain health might feel overwhelming. But Dr Singh suggested treating the list like a menu of options: "Choose just a first risk factor and then take it step by step," she said.

#### Where to Begin

The study also identified which specific risk factors and protective habits have a particularly notable effect on brain health. Addressing those, doctors said, is a great place to start.

- Lowering your blood pressure can have huge benefits.

The study found that high blood pressure was the greatest individual

risk factor for developing any of the three diseases, in large part because it nearly triples the risk of stroke. To do this, you might start by lowering salt intake, exercising more or losing weight, said Dr Alison Moore, chief of the division of geriatrics, gerontology and palliative care at the University of California San Diego in the US. But those interventions aren't always enough, she said, especially as we age and our blood vessels stiffen. That's when medication can help.

- Flex your physical and mental muscles. Bonus points if it is with friends.

Moderate and high physical activity substantially decreased the chances of stroke and dementia, as did having a large social network. Still, Dr Collier said the data reaffirms her advice to patients to engage in mental tasks that are "a little bit difficult" — such as reading, doing puzzles or learning a new instrument. Ideally, she said, you'd do those activities with somebody else, because conversation can be cognitively stimulating and because you get the added benefit of social interaction.

- Start early if you can. Collier said the right time to start making lifestyle changes "is generally not older age; it's middle age." That can prevent even early disease from developing.

But taking steps to reduce these risk factors can help prevent or slow the progression of disease later in life, too. It can also benefit patients who have a family history or genetic predisposition for these diseases, who "often feel like it's their inevitable fate," Dr Singh said. But "there are things they can do — we all can do — to take better care of their brains."

NT/NS

## Why mother's milk is best for baby



### YOUR HEALTH

DR GITA MATHAI

**H**uman babies need nurturing from the time they are born until they are able to fend for themselves. For the first six months of life the best food for the baby is mother's milk. Many infant formula manufacturers have tried to duplicate breast milk, but they have not yet been successful.

All animals have different digestive systems and nutritional requirements. Breast milk is ideally formulated for digestion by human babies. (Cow's milk is best for the calf.) Human milk provides all the baby's requirements. In addition to energy, it contains immunoglobulins from the mother. This protects the baby against infectious diseases to which the mother has already been exposed or has received immunisation.

Human females are born with two breasts. These start to develop during puberty and become functional during pregnancy.

Hormones are released during pregnancy which makes the breast grow and start functioning.

In the first few days after birth the milk is called colostrum. It provides easily digestible nutrition and immunoglobulins to prevent disease. Within a few days, this becomes proper milk which is released as per demand under the influence of hormones.

Milk production is a "letdown" reflex, so, as the baby suckles and stimulates the nipple, milk is constantly produced. Milk may also be produced on the side from which the baby is not feeding, causing some leakage. When the baby stops feeding, the milk production stops as the letdown reflex ceases. The milk does not stay in the breast like in a refrigerator. If you miss feeding for a few hours, the milk will not spoil.

Milk can be expressed from the breast and stored outside. It can be kept at room temperature for four

hours, refrigerated for four days and frozen for four months. This expressed milk can be warmed and fed to the baby as required.

Sometimes, the woman feels that the breast milk is not adequate because when she expresses the milk, she feels that a sufficient amount is not coming out. It is enough if the baby sleeps for two to three hours after feeding and passes adequate amounts of urine.

A tablet called metoclopramide is sometimes prescribed twice a day 10 minutes before food to establish and increase lactation. A simple natural way to do this is to drink a glass of water before feeding the baby and then another glass as soon as you finish. Also, eat an adequate, nutritious diet. Sit up and feed the baby and hold its head up at a 45° angle so that both of you are comfortable. The room should not be too hot or cold. It should be quiet and peaceful. If the mother is under a lot of stress, enough milk may not be produced.

Milk is the only food that the baby requires for six months or 180 days. After that natural weaning foods can be introduced. Breast milk can be continued for one or two years. Breastfeeding may produce amenorrhoea (absence of menstruation) but it does not inhibit ovulation, so you can become pregnant while breastfeeding.

Sometimes milk is produced in a non-pregnant woman or even in a man. This is a condition called galactorrhoea. It needs investigations with blood tests and scans.

This milk secretion may occur under the influence of hormones secreted by the pituitary gland like prolactin or thyroid stimulating hormone. Medications such as anti-psychotics, anti-depressants or even anti-acidity drugs can increase prolactin levels and produce milk. Continuous irritation of the breast by tight clothing or renal failure can also cause lactation.

Breast milk is a living, dynamic substance, uniquely designed to nourish and protect babies during their most vulnerable stage of life. You must ensure that the baby gets it for optimal growth.



The writer has a family practice at Vellore and is the author of *Staying Healthy in Modern India*. If you have any questions on health issues please write to [yourhealingm@yahoo.co.in](mailto:yourhealingm@yahoo.co.in)

## RISES IN THE EAST

The Telegraph

*Raring to go...*  
The master elbows out speculation on fitness

*...Gone*  
Why agents of change are of no good at their job

## AWAKENS THE NATION

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UIN: GUJARAT/0003/2025





2022: Quinton de Kock scores his third half-century of the season, as Lucknow Super Giants trample Kolkata Knight Riders in Pune by 75 runs, the biggest victory margin in terms of runs in the edition

# KICK OFF WITH The Telegraph

# SPORT

ENRIQUE WARNS PSG OF ARSENAL FIGHTBACK P14

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2025



XXCE

## IN BRIEF

### Vatican visit on cards

■ **ROME:** Three-time Rome champion Iga Swiatek and US's Coco Gauff have said they will head down to the Vatican, joining the crowds in St Peter's Square, if they get the chance, while preparing for the Italian Open just up the road. "I'm not Catholic. I am going because I feel like it's an historic thing," Gauff, the 2023 US Open champion, said on Tuesday. "With the whole smoke thing, I thought that was cool. I would like to go and see it and be around it since we're here." During the conclave, ballots are burned and black smoke from the Sistina Chapel chimney means no decision; white smoke signals the cardinals have chosen a pope. The conclave starts on Wednesday and the Italian Open lasts through May 18. AP

### Wild cards

■ **ORLANDO:** Iva Jovic, a 17-year-old, and Emilio Nava, a 23-year-old, claimed French Open wild-card invitations from the US Tennis Association on Monday by finishing atop the standings based on points earned at tournaments across five weeks. AP

### Tri-series

■ **COLOMBO:** India will be eager to bounce back from their loss and confirm their spot in the final when they face a struggling South African side in the women's Tri-series here on Wednesday. PTI

## THIS DAY THAT YEAR

**1930:** India's Duleep-singhi strikes 333 in just over five hours for Sussex against Northamptonshire in Brighton, racing to his highest first-class score and 21 more than Northants managed in two innings. Sussex win the three-day match by an innings and 209 runs.

**1991:** Haryana beat hosts Bombay in the Ranji Trophy final by 2 runs at the Wankhede.

**2018:** Welshman Mark Williams beats John Higgins of Scotland 18-16 in the World Snooker Championship final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. As promised, he attends the subsequent media conference in the nude.

## Titans stun Mumbai in last-ball thriller



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after dismissing Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill in the on again-off again match at the Wankhede on Tuesday. The Titans, however, pulled off a three-wicket win with the target reduced to 147 in 19 overs due to rain. (Reuters)

### OUR BUREAU

Gujarat Titans pulled off a thrilling three-wicket victory against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede on Tuesday. The hosts thus suffered their first loss after six matches.

"The Titans' DLS target was revised to 147 and they knocked off the required 15 runs in the 19th over following a rain break. Rahul Tewatia remained unbeaten on 11 off eight balls as victory was achieved off the last delivery.

The Titans had everything in their control before the first rain interruption. They were steadily progressing towards the target of 156 while keeping the DLS equation in mind.

They were 107/2 after 14 overs with Shubman Gill and Sherfane Rutherford in control when rain hit the players off the ground. When they returned, Bumrah delivered the knockout blow by removing Gill.

**One-man show**  
Bumrah yet again showed why he is considered the best across formats. His first two overs produced just six runs

MATCH-METER	
MI	GT
56/2 Powerplay	29/1
5 Sixes	5
14 Fours	12
45 Dots bowled	47
2 30+ score	2

### IPL STANDINGS

	P	W	L	NR	PP	PL
GT	11	8	3	0	+793	16
RCB	11	8	3	0	+482	16
PKS	11	7	3	1	+376	15
MI	12	7	5	0	+156	14
DC	11	6	4	1	+362	13
KKR	11	5	5	1	+249	11
LSG	11	5	6	0	-469	10
SRH	11	3	7	1	-1192	7
RR	12	3	9	0	-0718	6
CSK	11	2	9	0	-1117	4

Updated till Tuesday's match

mar Yadav and Will Jacks that they managed to put on a decent score.

The five-time champions lost six wickets in the last 9.3 overs for just 58 runs.

### Rashid effort

Coming into this match, there had been a lot of talk about Rashid Khan's bowling. On Tuesday, he bounced back with a four-over spell of 1/21, providing a glimpse into his best.

Not just Rashid, the Titans bowlers were at their lethal best. Prashidh Krishna stuck to his length and Sui Kishore kept the good work going.

### MUMBAI INDIANS

R. Rickelton	c Sudhakar b Siraj	2
R. Sharma	c Prasidh b Ashard	4
W. Jacks	c Sudhakar b Rashid	58
S. Yadav	c Shubman b Kishore	35
T. Varma	c Gill b Coetzee	7
H. Pandey	c Gill b Kishore	1
M. Dhru	c Gill b Prasidh	7
C. Bosch	not out	27
D. Chahar	not out	8
K. Sharma	not out	1
Total (wickets: 11)		105
Fall of wickets: 1/2, 2/5, 3/97, 4/103, 5/106, 6/113, 7/121, 8/150		
Bowling: Siraj 20-29-1, Ashard 3-0-18-1, Prasidh 4-0-37-1, Kishore 4-0-42-2, Rashid 4-0-21-1, Coetzee 2-0-10-1		

### GUJARAT TITANS

S. Sudhakar	c Rickelton b Boult	45
S. Gill	b Bumrah	43
J. Butler	c Ravi b Ashwini	30
S. Rutherford	b Boult	28
M.S. Khan	b Bumrah	6
R. Tewatia	not out	11
R. Khan	b Ashwini	2
G. Coetzee	c Dhir b Chahar	12
A. Kishore	not out	1
Extras (nb: 3, w: 6)		9
Total (7 wickets, 19 overs)		147
Fall of wickets: 1/5, 2/78, 3/113, 4/115, 5/123, 6/126, 7/144		
Bowling: Chahar 5-0-32-1, Boult 4-0-22-2, Bumrah 4-0-19-2, Hazrat 1-0-18-0, Kan 2-0-13-0, Ashwini 4-0-25-2, Jacks 1-0-15-0		
Impact Player	Replaced player	
GT won by 3 wickets (DLS method)		
Wicket: Shubman Gill		

GT won by 3 wickets (DLS method) Wicket: Shubman Gill

## KNIGHT RIDERS COUNT ON CONFIDENCE

### Coach upbeat about crack at playoffs

#### OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Chandrakant Pandit acknowledges that his team is gradually peaking, with two wins on the trot keeping them in the race for the playoffs. Pandit said: "Very, very confident" of the Knight Riders making the playoffs.

Speaking on the eve of the Knights' clash against Chennai Super Kings at Eden Gardens, Pandit said: "Looking at our last two games, yes, of course, we're peaking... But that is what the beauty of this tournament is."

"We've always been saying that in the dressing room that this is a family which has to carry on with this two-month-long journey. And you will find the ups and downs there."

"But obviously, how to come out of a low phase and counter-attack is more important to us. So, looking back at the last two games, yes, we are getting that confidence."

"We were confident enough right through. It was just that the results were not in our favour. But having won the last two, we're looking ahead to winning the remaining games as well. I am very, very confident that we'll qualify."

### CAB's plans

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) had planned to make CSK captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni ring the customary Eden badge before the start of Wednesday's game. But that won't be possible.

"We had approached Dhoni's manager for it, but things didn't work out," a senior CAB official said.

The CAB though is mulling to hand over a memento to Dhoni during the post-match presentation.

## IPL 2025 SINGLES Dhoni skips practice

■ **CALCUTTA:** "Dhoni, Dhoni" chants grew louder, hordes of people rushed towards the CSK team bus as it came to a halt at Gate No.1 of Eden Gardens on Tuesday. But once again, the icon the fans hoped to get a glimpse of didn't show up.

Just as on Monday, CSK captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni didn't attend the training session as his teammates got down to practice. There was speculation that Dhoni may not



Kolkata Knight Riders' (from left) Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana and captain Ajinkya Rahane at Eden Gardens on Tuesday. Pictures by Sanat Kumar Sinha

## Relaxed but not content, hosts ready to fight

#### SAYAK BANERJEE

Calcutta: The light-hearted moments head coach Chandrakant Pandit and mentor Dwayne Bravo had late into Tuesday's training session at the Eden suggest a far better ambience in the Kolkata Knight Riders' camp.

Pandit's sombre expression in the dugout — especially, after the Knight Riders failed to chase down 112 against Punjab Kings; after they were outplayed at home by the Gujarat Titans — has been replaced by a much more relaxed look. All thanks to the defending champions' back-to-back wins over Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, which have helped them stay in the playoffs race.

The Knights' job, though, is far from over. They still have three more matches to win, with the first against the already-eliminated Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday.

Considering how they have been playing lately, it's a game the Knights are expected to win. But on their part, they need to cut down the unforced errors as much as possible in all three facets of the game.

To speak of their batting, the group performed collectively in the last two games as the Knights breached 200 on both occasions. But with the ball, especially against the Royals last Sunday, the performance wasn't something to be proud of, as a bit too many loose balls allowed the opponents to fight back despite being reduced to 71/5.

So, will the Knights tweak their bowling attack for Wednesday's clash? South African quick Anrich Nortje had an extended session

HAWK EYE	
LAST 5 HEAD-TO-HEAD	
KKR	CSK
3	2
April 11, 2025: KKR won by 8 wickets	

ed to win. But on their part, they need to cut down the unforced errors as much as possible in all three facets of the game.

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no issues with MS (Dhoni). He moves his situation very well and where he is in terms of his preparation. And yeah, he's certainly expected to play tomorrow (Wednesday), Simons said.

### Another auction

■ **MUMBAI:** Even as IPL 2025 is in full swing, some of its rising stars, like Ayush Mhatre and Angkrish Raghuvanshi, will be among the key attractions when 20 players go under the hammer in the T20 Mumbai League auction here on Wednesday. The third season of the league, featuring eight teams, will be held at the Wankhede from May 26 to June 8. The league involves big

of bowling at the nets during Tuesday's optional practice. With the pitch to be in use having a little more grass content, it will be interesting to see if Nortje is selected as one of their four overseas players.

Vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer is learnt to have hurt his left hand, and KKR are working on getting him fit for the game.

The Knights, during Tuesday's training, had the 'Sha-hoshi Rani' logo on the back of their practice jerseys to honour women displaying bravery, resilience and determination in adversity. One expects them to play with similar courage and boldness even if put under pressure by the Super Kings.

### TODAY'S MATCH

■ Kolkata Knight Riders vs Chennai Super Kings, 7.30pm, Eden Gardens, live on Star Sports Network & JioHotstar

names like Suryakumar Yadav, Ajinkya Rahane and Shreyas Iyer as icon players.

### Coach's clarification

■ **HYDERABAD:** Sunrisers Hyderabad's ultra-aggressive batting approach has backfired this season. Head coach Daniel Vettori said that he never backed an "aggressive approach" every time his batters went out to bat, saying the plan was to assess the conditions and play accordingly, but unfortunately, the home pitches suited the rivals more. "I definitely didn't say after every match I was backing an aggressive approach," Vettori said.

Our Bureau & PTI

## 'INDIAN CRICKET IS NO ONE'S PERSONAL PROPERTY' Gambhir slams 'commentary box' critics

#### OUR BUREAU

Gautam Gambhir's playing days have long been over, but the former India opener hasn't lost a bit of his aggressive touch and can still step out and launch his opponents out of the ground.

The latest example of that came on Tuesday when Gambhir, speaking at 'ABP India at 2047 Summit', lashed out at his critics. On his target, it seemed, were two former India Test stars, though Gambhir, the current India head coach, did not take any names.

"I am into this job for eight months. If results don't come, I am fine with criticism. It is people's job to criticise. There are people who

are sitting in the commentary box for 25 years and feel that Indian cricket is their personal fiefdom. Indian cricket's no one's personal property and it belongs to 140 crore Indians," he stated.

"These people have raised questions about my coaching, discussions (when he left the 2011 tour of England after a head injury), distribution of Champions Trophy prize money... I don't owe any explanation to anyone as to whether I have given (prize) money or not... Those living in glass houses shouldn't throw stones at others," Gambhir said.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, in one of his columns, had wondered whether Gambhir would share the prize money



I don't owe any explanation to anyone as to whether I have given (prize) money or not... Those living in glass houses shouldn't throw stones at others

### GAUTAM GAMBHIR India head coach

with the support staff, following the example of his predecessor Rahul Dravid who had shared the windfall with the support staff after India's T20 World Cup win.

Mutual respect  
Gambhir also cleared the air about his relationship with senior players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, dismissing any differences with them.

"...who are these people, who are saying all these things? These are speculations done by experts and those who run YouTube channels. Two months back, a coach and a captain together won a Champions Trophy."

"Imagine what you would ask if we wouldn't have won CT... I respect what Rohit has done for Indian cricket. I have got a lot of time for someone like Rohit Sharma. It was from start and it will remain like that with him."

"A coach's job isn't selecting the team. It is the job of selectors to select... Till the time they (Rohit and Kohli) are performing, they should be a part of the team. When you start and when you end, is your individual decision," Gambhir said.

## Constant scrutiny made it 'tough' for Kohli to lead

#### OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: The constant pressure of leading India and RCB for nearly a decade and the relentless scrutiny around his batting "became too much in the end" for Virat Kohli and he stepped down to be in a "happy space".

Kohli resigned as T20 captain after the World Cup in 2021, following which he also relinquished RCB's leadership role. A few months later, he quit Test captaincy.

"At one point, it did become tough for me because there was just too much happening in my career. I was captaining India for a period of 7-8 years. I captained RCB for nine years. There were expectations on me from a batting perspective every game that I played," Kohli said on an RCB



Virat Kohli during his IPL.

Bold Diaries' podcast.

"I didn't have this sense that the attention was off me. If it wasn't captaincy, it would be batting. I was exposed to it 24x7. It did get very tough on me, and it did get too much in the end."

"That's why I stepped down because I felt like if I've decided I want to be in this place, I need to be happy. "I need to have a space in

my life where I can just come and play my cricket without being judged, without being looked at as what are you going to do this season and what's going to happen now," said Kohli.

"In the last couple of seasons, I have consciously made an effort to evolve my game," he said. "And I've seen the results of it. Again, to the point where I had to let go of people wanting to see me, this is who I am, and just go and hit the ball."

"You start from wanting to hit the ball and then you go through this whole journey of becoming someone. Expectations, this and that, to a point where you feel like this is actually pulling me back. And you have to push through and again get to the point where you say, just hit the ball."



## Xaverian 5-a-side meet

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: Eight corporate-backed franchise teams will take part in the second edition of the Xaverian Soccer League, organised by St Xavier's College Alumni Association in collaboration with the department of sports, St Xavier's College (Autonomous).

It will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the college ground. The League, first started in 2024, has swiftly become one of the city's most anticipated youth football events.

Each squad features a carefully curated mix of players — one marquee player, one guest player, three current students and three alumni players resulting in a vibrant, inter-generational five-a-side football format.

The marquee players are Rahim Nabi (Sharp Shooters), Mehtab Hussain (Credito Accelerator), Ashim Biswas (Xaverian Tigers), Md Rafique (FTL Blasters), Deepankar Roy (Warriors), Roshan Devidas (Digital Strikers) and Avitto D'Cunha (LOD Lions).

"XSL reflects our commitment to holistic development by blending academics with sports and camaraderie. It's heartening to see students, alumni, and sports personalities come together in this celebration," said principal Father Dominic Savio, St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Calcutta.

## Footballer dead

Buenos Aires: Former Argentina defender Luis Galvan, a member of the team that won the 1978 World Cup, died on Monday at the age of 77, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said.

Galvan also represented Argentina at the 1982 World Cup in Spain, earning a total 34 caps for the national team. He retired from the international game in 1983.

Reuters



Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze (extreme right) converts a penalty against Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park in London on Monday. (Reuters)

## Forest suffer setback

PREMIER LEAGUE	
PALACE	1
FOREST	1

London: Nottingham Forest's quest for a Champions League berth next season suffered a setback when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace in a Premier League match on Monday.

Murillo cancelled out Eberechi Eze's penalty for the home side.

The draw leaves Forest in sixth place in the table on 61 points from 35 games, two points behind fifth-placed Chelsea in the final Champions League qualification position.

Mid-table Palace took the

lead at Selhurst Park when Eze converted a penalty on the hour mark after Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels had felled Tyrick Mitchell. Eze also hit the crossbar later.

The lead lasted four minutes before Neco Williams' shot was deflected into the Palace net by defender Murtillo, who limped off shortly afterwards with a hamstring injury that could see him miss Forest's run-in to the end of the campaign.

"It was a game of two halves," Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo told Sky Sports. "In the first half we controlled the game. In the second, we started good but then Palace reacted. It was good for us that we achieved the goal so

soon after Palace scored.

"The final games (of the season) are going to be like this, nervous games, tight games. Everybody is fighting for something. It is up to us to react."

Palace have still not beaten Forest in the top division since 1991 but stepped closer to their Premier League record points total of 49.

They have 46 with three games to play.

"We had quite a few chances at the end," Eze said. "I thought we were going to take it, but I think a point, we'll take it. We're positive, we know we put in a good performance."

It took almost 35 minutes for Palace to have the first ef-

fort on goal when Daniel Munoz's volley from 10 yards was well saved by Sels.

Palace were awarded a penalty in the 60th minute when Mitchell was felled by the out-stretched leg of Sels for what looked like a clear penalty. However, it was confirmed only after a VAR confirmation.

Eze, who missed a spot-kick at Newcastle United last month, swept the ball into the left corner, just past the out-stretched arm of Sels.

Forest were soon level though as a corner was cleared to Williams on the edge of the box and his low shot was intentionally deflected into the net by Murtillo.

Reuters

## Villa upset at schedule change

London: Aston Villa officials have expressed their unhappiness with the Premier League for bringing forward a match against Tottenham by two days to help Spurs maximise preparation time for a potential appearance in the Europa League final.

The match was due to be played on Sunday, May 18, but will now take place on Friday, May 16 — five days before the title match in the Europa League in Bilbao, Spain.

Tottenham leads Bodo/Gilmi 3-1 from the first leg of the semi-finals, with the return match on Thursday in Norway.

The fixture rearrangement gives Villa — a team chasing Champions League qualification — two fewer days to prepare for Tottenham. It will also affect logistical arrangements for some Villa fans.

Monchi, president of football operations at Villa, took to X to say the change in match date "is not what we wanted" and represented "the least damaging alternative."

"Our fans didn't deserve (it)," he wrote on the social network site, "but we tried hard to keep the match to protect the most important for us: YOU and OUR TEAM."

Damian Vidagany, Villa director of football operations, went further in a long post on X, saying there was a "clear prejudice" toward Villa fans and bemoaning the fact that his club "didn't feel this support" over its last two European campaigns — in the Europa Conference League last season and the Champions League this season.

Villa are in seventh place in the Premier League and in a battle with five other teams to secure the remaining four Champions League qualification spots on offer.

Manchester United are also in the Europa League semi-finals and holds a 3-0 lead over Athletic Bilbao from the first leg in Spain last week. United will be playing a Premier League game on May 16, too, against Chelsea.

AP



Jannik Sinner acknowledges fans after a press conference ahead of the Italian Open in Rome on Monday. (Reuters)

## Ban over, Sinner returns 'home'

Rome: Rarely has an athlete been welcomed back from a doping ban with so much fanfare.

The scene at the Foro Italico came in sharp contrast to how Sinner felt back in February when he received a three-month ban in a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"At the start I was a bit confused because I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do," Sinner said. "Then I went home and stayed with my family. I tried to understand better what was really important to me."

"I know how many sacrifices I made and my daily routine was always practice, practice, practice. But at that moment, I didn't have any of that. I came to understand that what's important to me are the people by your side. That they give you the strength to move forward and continue smiling."

The settlement was made after Wada appealed a decision last year by the International Tennis Integrity Agency to fully exonerate Sinner for what it deemed to be an accidental contamination by a banned anabolic steroid in March 2024.

The settlement raised questions, since it conveniently allowed Sinner not to miss any Grand Slams and return at his home tournament. After a first-round bye in Rome, he will play his opening match on Saturday.

AP

## AC Milan keep hopes alive

Genoa (Italy): AC Milan scored twice in two minutes to beat Genoa 2-1 in Serie A on Monday and keep alive their slim hopes of a place in next year's Champions League.

Genoa substitute Vitinha scored a minute after taking the field to give his side the lead after 61 minutes.

But Rafael Leao levelled 15 minutes later when his powerful shot was deflected into the net, and two minutes later Genoa captain Morfen Frendrup put one into his own net.

Although Milan remained

in ninth place, they closed the gap on the top four to six points. Juventus are fourth, equal on points with Roma and Lazio below it. Three rounds remain.

### LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Milan's last three games are against Bologna, Roma and bottom club Monza. Genoa have lost their last three games and sit at 13th.

Respite for Girona

Girona won for the first time

in 12 league games, 1-0 against Mallorca and eased their La Liga relegation fears on Monday. Cristhian Stuani got the all-important goal in the 10th minute when he pounced on a rebound and lashed home.

It was the 38-year-old striker's 139th goal for the club since joining from Middlesbrough in 2017.

The result lifted Girona six points clear of the relegation zone with four matches remaining. Mallorca stayed at ninth.

AP, Reuters



AC Milan's Rafael Leao

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Tender Specific No.	Name of Work	NIT value
CEC/DSPM-KE/W/2025/21	Annual Sweeping & Cleaning work in Residential, Non residential (Public) building of Zone 'A' & Zone 'B' in C,D,E,F type colony at DSPM-TPS, CSPGCL, Korba East.	\$5.95 Lacs

And Annual work of daily Sweeping & Cleaning of AB type colony, 100 unit staff quarters of DSPM, GT Hostel, VIP Rest House, Russian Hostel, St. Club, Bal Mandir, Hospital Building at DSPM TPS, CSPGCL, Korba East.

Note:- (i) The detailed NIT, Tender document & other details can be viewed and downloaded online from our e-bidding portal <https://ebidding.cspgcl.co.in:50724/irj/portlet>. (ii) NIT value is inclusive of GST @ 18%.

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Tender Reference No. :- WID/MID/HAZARIBAG/P-2-02/2025-26

Letter no - 429 Date:- 05-05-2025

1.	Name of the work	Renovation of Karma M.I. Scheme, Village- Karma, Panchayat- Karma, Block- Chougama, District- Hazaribag.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs.- 1,48,87,600.00
3.	Time of Completion	11 Months
4.	Date of Publication of e-Tender on website	13.05.2025 at 3:00 P.M.
5.	Last date/Time for Submission of e-Tender bids Online	20.05.2025 up to 5:00 P.M.
6.	Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	20.05.2025 up to 5:00 P.M.
7.	Date of opening of e-Tender	22.05.2025 at 03:00 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag 6546-270485
9.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	semiibhc-cem-jhr@nic.in
10.	E-mail of e-Procurement officer	semiibhc-cem-jhr@nic.in

Note:- 1). Published Estimated Cost May be Increased or Decreased.

2). Mode of Submission of Online Tender Fee/EMD Through <http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag.

PR 351732 (Minor Irrigation)25-26'D

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Admin-2(i)/AIIMS/Bhopal/Recr. Cell/Deputation/2025/23700 Dated: 06.05.2025

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4.	Senior Analyst (System Analyst)	Level-12	1
5.	Registrar	Level-12	1
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# Dembele fit, coach wants an encore of last week's heroics vs Gunners

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain received a boost ahead of Wednesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Arsenal with Ousmane Dembele passing fit as the French champions look to turn growing squad cohesion into a place in the final.

Dembele, who scored the only goal in last week's 1-0 win at the Emirates Stadium, picked up a muscle injury during that match but will be available at the Parc des Princes.

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

"He has been training with the squad for two days, so he is available for tomorrow (Wednesday). I have him at my disposal," PSG coach Luis Enrique told a press conference on Tuesday.

It is welcome news for a PSG side whose progress this season has been built less on individual brilliance and more on the kind of collective spirit and tactical maturity that has often eluded them in past European campaigns.

PSG defender Achraf Hakimi said he believes Dembele has recovered well.

"He really wants to play," Hakimi said.

"Ousmane is a different kind of player. He makes you want to go and watch the game in the stadium, he can change the course of a match at any moment, he's a genius with the ball. We're delighted to have him back."



Arsenal's Ethan Nwaneri with Raheem Sterling and teammates during training in London on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Luis Enrique, brought in to overhaul a team once shaped around marquee stars, has made no secret of his mission to build a unit capable of competing at the highest level.

"This season we've grown so much as a team," he said. "You have to be ready for any scenario and pay attention from start to finish. The target for the coming years is to keep improving the process," he said when asked about last season's semi-final loss to Borussia Dortmund.

That steady evolution was evident in the first leg in London where PSG's compact shape, aggressive pressing and controlled possession frustrated Arsenal's attacking rhythm.

Defender Achraf Hakimi said the team's new-found identity had been key to their run.

"The key is to show our personality with and without the ball and press high," Hakimi said. "Arsenal will need to feel that the Parc des Princes is our home."

PSG's only Champions League final appearance ended in defeat by Bayern Munich in 2020, while Arsenal's sole final was in 2006 when they lost to Barcelona in Paris.

"We will have to be as good



## STATS THE WAY

**Head to head:** Matches played: 6. PSG have won 1, Arsenal 2. Three have ended in draws.

■ Only two teams have reached the Champions League final after losing the first-leg semi-final at home. Ajax beat Panathinaikos in 1995-96 and Tottenham defeated Ajax in 2018-19.

■ Both PSG and Arsenal are bidding to reach their second Champions League final. The French side made it to the final in 2019-20 and the Gunners in 2005-06.

■ After winning the first leg of a European tie away from home, PSG have been eliminated only once (vs Manchester United in 2018-19). Arsenal have never progressed after losing the first leg at home.

■ This is PSG's fifth Champions League semi-final (win 1, loss 3) and a fourth in six seasons. In 2023-24 they lost 0-1 both away and at home against Borussia Dortmund.

■ This is Arsenal's third Champions League semi-final. They beat Villarreal 1-0 on aggregate in 2005-06 but lost 1-4 against Manchester United three seasons later.

Source: Uefa

Paris Saint Germain's Ousmane Dembele during training in Poissy, France, on Tuesday. (Reuters)

as last week, but while many expect the same kind of game, I guarantee you it will be completely different," said Luis Enrique.

According to Uefa statistics, PSG have won 18 of the 19 ties in which they won a first leg away, while Arsenal have never overturned a home first leg defeat in European competition, losing all five ties. Enrique, however, isn't counting on history ahead of the match at the Parc des Princes.

"We're bound to suffer because our opponents don't have a favourable result," Enrique told reporters.

"We need to match our per-

formance as closely as possible in the first leg to win the return leg and stay true to our ideas."

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, on the other hand, believes that his team needs to be ready to give their life to reach the Champions League final.

"Excitement, goosebumps, wanting the day to arrive, (the feeling) of being very prepared, very convinced and knowing that the opportunity is to play in a Champions (League) final," Arteta was quoted as saying by ESPN.

"And when you get to that point, you have to give your life for it."

Arsenal will be happy with the return of midfielder Thomas Partey after he missed the first leg through suspension.

For the first leg, such was the shortage of players that Arteta had to name four academy players on the bench. Arsenal still gave PSG a tough fight.

With inputs from Reuters, AP

## OTHER RESULTS

■ Paris Saint Germain vs Arsenal (12.30am IST Thursday, Live on Sony Ten 2 and Sony LIV)

First leg score: PSG 1 Arsenal 0

France minister apologises: France's former interior minister Gerald Darmanin has apologised to Liverpool fans for wrongly blaming them for the chaos at the Stade de France during the 2022 Champions League final in Paris.

Darmanin, now serving as the justice minister, admitted

that security arrangements for the final between Liverpool and Real Madrid were inadequate, and that his previous public remarks blaming English fans were a mistake, British media reported on Monday.

Fans were caught in dangerous crowd congestion out-

side the Stade de France before the match, which was delayed for over 30 minutes.

French police were filmed using tear gas on the fans, who complained of heavy-handed treatment as they were herded into pens outside the stadium.

Reuters

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The Telegraph

Wednesday  
7 May 2025SABYASACHI  
MUKHERJEESHAH RUKH  
KHANKIARA  
ADVANI

# MET STARS

INDIAN GLAM  
AT FASHION'S  
BIGGEST GALA  
**P 8-11**B'DAY, WHATSUP **2,14**  
TECH, STREAMING **3,4**  
COMING UP, TOLLY **5,6**  
CAMPUS, YOUR VIEWS **7,16**



BILL KREUTZMANN, BRECKIN MEYER



This is a great time to get involved in creative or team projects. You might receive an inheritance this year. Do not rush into new things without thinking them through fully. Try to simplify your life as much as you can and get back to the basics instead of getting stressed. If you are single, try and meet new people as a new romance could be coming your way.

— Nita Chhotalal

Instagram



## BTS SCENES:

Smiles, stories, and a whole lot of behind-the-scenes love. Uploaded by @kapilsharma (Kapil Sharma)



## MIRROR, MIRROR!

Uploaded by @dishapatani (Disha Patani)

## TODAY'S TIPS by Nita Chhotalal



## ARIES

**DO** move on from stagnancy  
**DON'T** allow yourself to get stuck with things you do not believe in  
**EXPECT** to link up all the fragments of thoughts which will make it easier for you to get rid of certain tricky situations



## TAURUS

**DO** mend fences and clear old misunderstandings  
**DON'T** be hesitant  
**EXPECT** to get close to someone from whom you have been estranged before



## GEMINI

**DO** take your decision calmly  
**DON'T** confide in someone who does not have your best interest at heart  
**EXPECT** to be sure of the person before you unburden your soul to him or her



## CANCER

**DO** adjust your attitude towards your loved ones  
**DON'T** retaliate  
**EXPECT** to be understanding and accommodating to the needs of others



## LEO

**DO** be courteous and respectful towards the belief of other people  
**DON'T** whine about the hurdles which come across your path  
**EXPECT** to stride across the journey of life with vigour and enthusiasm



## VIRGO

**DO** make new friends and mix with new people  
**DON'T** underestimate your self-worth  
**EXPECT** to impress those around you with your wit and grace



## LIBRA

**DO** question the worthiness of relations  
**DON'T** let your personal problems hamper your progress  
**EXPECT** to sort out your differences if you want to save yourself from some serious trouble



## SCORPIO

**DO** try for cooperation and harmony while tackling any project  
**DON'T** throw your weight around  
**EXPECT** to take the lead and demonstrate your authority



## SAGITTARIUS

**DO** be the way you are with a display of honesty in your every action  
**DON'T** be dishonest in your dealings  
**EXPECT** to lose forever people's faith which you have built over so many years



## CAPRICORN

**DO** continue being sincere and hard-working  
**DON'T** lose faith  
**EXPECT** to feel that your performance is affected because things are out of your control



## AQUARIUS

**DO** share your concerns with a friend or a relative  
**DON'T** go back into the past  
**EXPECT** a psychological problem to cause you a lot of discomfort



## PISCES

**DO** re-evaluate your decisions before making them effective  
**DON'T** be judgemental  
**EXPECT** the day to be full of applause and praise for you

Nita Chhotalal is on [Facebook](#) @Divine Grace - Nita Chhotalal [Instagram](#) @mysticalguidancebynita

## WHAT SUP

## GLIMPSES FROM ESHO HEY BOISHAKH, ROTARY CLUB'S STAR-STUDED NABABARSHA CELEBRATION

**R**otary Club's Esho Hey Boishakh was a slightly delayed yet glamorous welcome of the Bengali New Year. The Poila Boishakh event, held at Urbana recently, was attended by guests such as Babul Supriyo, Ishaa Saha, and many more. With meaningful *adda*, soulful music and lip-smacking food, the event delivered on all dimensions of a complete Bengali experience in the truest sense. The *adda* sessions, moderated by Arindam Sil, seemed like full-fledged TED Talks on socio-cultural topics, ranging from colonialism in Bengali food to AI in art and music, accompanied by personal reflections from the guests. Spectacular musical and dance performances were peppered throughout the conversations, and the night came to a close with a delightful spread catered by Mitra Cafe and Tiswa's Kitchen.

Highlights from the evening.

Ansh Banerjee (t2 intern)



"Even in tough times, we Bengalis find a way to celebrate. I really enjoyed the *adda*, music and a feast that brought comfort, especially the Mutton Kosha I hadn't had in so long. I wore my favourite blue *mulmul* sari with an orange blouse and matching earrings. It's my *mulmul* sarees and me against this hot and humid weather," said Ishaa Saha.

The final performance of the evening came from the talented husband-wife duo, Somchanda Bhattacharya and Shubham Banerjee. "I had a wonderful time celebrating Poila Boishakh with Rotary Club members. Although I couldn't celebrate on the 15th, this day compensated for it. I also found the perfect excuse to wear a saree despite the heat — this soft, powder-pink one gifted by my husband was both comfortable and beautiful," said Somchanda.



(L-R) Debashis Sen, Babul Supriyo and Arindam Sil actively participated in the evening's activities. Babul Supriyo sang *Purano shei diner kotha*



## BIG SCREEN

## ENGLISH

**THE LEGEND OF OCHI (U/A):** Inox Quest (1.15)

**THUNDERBOLTS (U/A):** Inox Quest (9, 11.50, 2.40, 5.30, 8.20, 11.10), Inox South City (9.05, 11.55, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25, 11.15), Inox Forum (10.15, 4.20, 7.10, 10), Inox Salt Lake (9.05, 2.45, 8.25, 11.15), Inox Rajarhat (9.10, 2.55, 11.25), Inox Hiland (2.15, 10.45), Inox Hind (10, 6.40), PVR Avani (8pm), PVR Mani Square (9.05, 5.20, 8.10, 11), PVR Diamond Plaza (9.25, 5.20, 11), PVR Uniworld Downtown (11am, 10.30pm), RDB Cinemas (9.15am, 8pm)

**UNTIL DAWN (A):** Inox Quest (noon)

## HINDI

**THE BHOOTNII (U/A):** Inox Quest (5.10, 10.50), RDB Cinemas (1.50)

**GROUND ZERO (U/A):** Inox Quest (2.20), Inox South City (noon)

**HIT: THE THIRD CASE (A):** RDB Cinemas (11.45am)

**KESARI CHAPTER 2: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JALUANWALA BAGH (A):**

Inox Quest (9.40, 7.55, 9.30), Inox South City (10.10, 6.20, 10.55), Inox Salt Lake (11.55, 5.35, 11.30), Inox Rajarhat (10.05, noon, 8.35, 11.35), Inox Hiland (10.20, 1.10, 9.30), Inox Hind (12.50), PVR Avani (noon, 5.40, 8.35, 11.30), PVR Mani Square (9, 5.35, 11.20), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.45, 11.05), PVR Uniworld Downtown (1.50), RDB Cinemas (5.20, 10.30)

**RAID 2 (U/A):** Inox Quest (9, 10.30, 11.30, 12.35, 1.30, 2.30, 3.35, 4.30, 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30), Inox South City (9, 10.10, 11.15, 1.15, 2.15, 3.20, 4.15, 5.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.15), Inox Forum (10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), Inox Salt Lake (10.30, 11.30, 1.30, 2.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30, 11.30), Inox Rajarhat (9, 10, noon, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10), Inox Hiland (10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), Inox Hind (10.30, 1.30, 3.40, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30, 10.30), Inox Metro (11, 1, 2, 5, 8,



## RAID 2

9.35, 11), PVR Avani (9, 10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), PVR Mani Square (9.45, 11, 12.45, 2.34, 5, 6.45, 8, 9.45, 11), PVR Diamond Plaza (9, 10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), PVR Uniworld Downtown (10, 11, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11), RDB Cinemas (9.30, 11, 12.20, 3, 5.45, 7.10, 8.30, 10, 11.15), SVF Cinemas, Narendrapur (9, 11.40, 2.20, 5, 7.40, 10.20), SVF Cinemas, Howrah (9, 11.35, 2.10, 4.45, 7.20, 10), SVF Cinemas, Barupur Show House (11, 1.45, 4.30, 7.15)

**THUNDERBOLTS (U/A):** Inox Rajarhat (5.45), Inox Hiland (9.10, 7.55), Inox Metro (10.10, 4), PVR Avani (9.10, 2.25, 10.50), PVR Mani Square (noon), PVR Diamond Plaza (2.30, 8.10), PVR Uniworld Downtown (4.45), RDB Cinemas (2.50)

## BENGALI

**PURATAWN — THE ANCIENT (U/A):** Inox South City (3.05), Inox Salt Lake (3.40), Inox Rajarhat (1pm), Inox Hiland (noon)

**SHREEMAN V/S SHREEMATI (U/A):** Inox Quest (6.35), Inox South City (2.50, 5.30, 8.10), Inox Salt Lake (1pm), Inox Rajarhat (3.20, 6.05), Inox Hiland (4, 6.45), Inox Metro (6.50), PVR Avani (2.55, 5.15), PVR Mani Square (2.50), PVR Diamond Plaza (noon, 5.35, 8.20), RDB Cinemas (4.30)



## TECH

## GOOGLE'S NOTEBOOKLM APP IS COMING TO ANDROID AND iOS



Google's NotebookLM app is expected to be released at Google I/O in late May, but you can pre-register to be notified when the download is live

Google's plan to put Gemini in every one of its products is happening at a rapid pace. One AI product that many are looking forward to is NotebookLM, which helps parse documents, videos and more using Google's advanced AI models. It has been available on the web since 2023, but Google recently said it would get an Android app, which is available for pre-install.

NotebookLM aims to help students, professionals, and researchers better understand complex information through features like smart summaries and the ability to ask questions about documents and other materials. It even lets you generate AI podcasts, called Audio Overviews, to make it easier to digest complex topics.

At the moment, NotebookLM exists on a website. You can visit it on your phone, but the interface is not user-friendly compared to the desktop version. The mobile app will change that. The app is expected to be released at Google I/O in late May but you can pre-register to be notified when the download is live.

NotebookLM banks on the same technology as Google's other chatbots and AI projects, but instead of a general purpose robot, NotebookLM is focused on documents you upload. It can assimilate text files, websites, and videos, including multiple files and source types for a single agent. There is a context window of 500,000 tokens and supports document uploads as large as 200MB. Google says this creates a queryable "AI expert" that can answer detailed questions and discuss ideas based on the source data.

According to screenshots on the app listings, the dedicated app will allow users to create new notebooks and view the ones they have already created. They can also upload new sources from their device and view the ones they have already uploaded in each of the notebooks.

Besides mobile, the apps will be available on iPads and tablets, where you'll have a bigger screen to multitask.

Mathures Paul

## APPLE VISION PRO GETS ITS FIRST FEATURE FILM WITH BONO TAKING THE STAGE

Apple Vision Pro, the spatial computing headset, is getting its first full-length immersive film — *Bono: Stories of Surrender*, a concert-style "documentary event". But wipe those tears, it will also be available on Apple TV+.

Based on his memoir, it uses 180-degree video capture in 8K resolution, aiming to create a detailed visual experience. Apple's Spatial Audio technology is also used, making sounds appear to come from specific points around the listener to increase the feeling that you are there during the performance.

The film has been in the making for sometime. During the pandemic, Bono spent time with U2 member The Edge, reworking and re-recording a catalogue of the band's greatest hits for an album titled *Songs of Surrender*, which was released in March 2023. The 40-track LP was accompanied by a documentary titled *Bono & The Edge: A Sort of Homecoming*, as well as Bono's memoir, *Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story*.

The singer continues his journey in *Bono: Stories of Surrender*. The Apple documentary, directed in black-and-white by Andrew Dominik and it will have its world premiere at Cannes Film Festival later this month.

Apple has said in a statement: "[Bono] pulls back the curtain on a remarkable



life and the family, friends, and faith that have challenged and sustained him, revealing personal stories about his journey as a son, father, husband, activist and rockstar. Along with never-before-seen, exclusive footage from the Beacon Theatre shows, the film features Bono performing many of the iconic U2 songs that have shaped his life and legacy."

*Bono: Stories of Surrender* will arrive on Apple TV+ on May 30 and simultaneously be available in Apple Immersive Video for Vision Pro users. An abridged and updated edition of Bono's memoir will be released in conjunction with the documentary.

Mathures Paul

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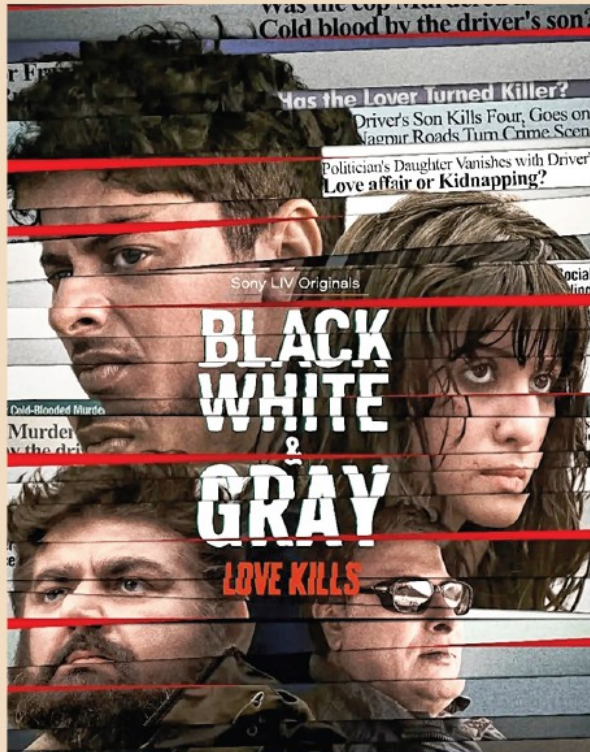


**BLACK WHITE & GRAY IS AVANT-GARDE AND WILDLY ORIGINAL**

**D**izzying inventiveness — both of the literal and metaphorical variety — is at the heart of *Black White & Gray*. Distinguished by a daring meta-narrative which turns the so-called tenets of the true-crime genre on its head, this six-part SonyLIV series is perhaps the most ingenious piece of writing seen on Indian screens in a while.

Co-created by Pushkar Mahabal and Hemal Thakkar, with the former also doubling as director, *Black White & Gray* — with the title delving into the good, the evil and, more importantly, the in-between — focuses on the classic poor boy-rich girl trope, but builds a storytelling technique around it that keeps you on the edge of your seat. There are two intertwined strands: a mockumentary about a crime that is supposed to be real, and the restaging of the crime. Both are fictional, but what hits hard is that all of it could well be true.

The boy (played by Mayur More) and the girl (Palak Jaiswal) are not named, which is just as well because their circumstances — though extraordinary — are not alien to frequent newspaper



*Black White & Gray* is streaming on SonyLIV

headlines. Not naming them says more about socioeconomic politics and caste chasm than doing so would have, with *Black White & Gray* emerging as a sharp and on-point commentary on what divides India today.

Living in Nagpur, she is the daughter of a powerful politician, while he is the son of the driver who has been driving her father around for decades. It is a prickly situation and what kicks off as a midnight no-strings-attached romp in a hotel room quickly escalates into a multiple murder case. The boy is the accused, including being named as the killer of the girl (no spoiler, there is much more to this). His other 'victims' include a village boy, a cab driver and an off-duty cop (played by actor-filmmaker Tigmanshu Dhulia). Hot on his heels is a bounty hunter (Deven Bhojani), along with a police force, which at the behest of the politician, is baying for the boy's blood.

The stakes rise with every twist and turn and so does your involvement in the narrative, with the format shifting between the dramatisation of the crime(s), which is, of course, fictional; the talking heads playback, which is

also fictional, marking a significant departure from a true-crime documentary, and the employment of multiple unreliable narrators, each of which has different interpretations and reinterpretations of what happened over the course of a few nights.

*Black White & Gray* talks about confirmation bias, gender inequity and the abuse of power. Much of it is not on the nose, but what is crudely executed — which is exactly what the script demanded — is the role of a certain section of the media as hungry vultures, perpetually ready as it is to peddle lies and manipulate many a truth. The fact that the boy chooses to tell his side of the story to a foreign YouTuber/self-styled journalist — who he believes is the only one who will present his story without blemish — says a lot about the kind of faith we have on our media now.

*Black White & Gray* ends on a tenuous note that makes you instantly rethink all that you have watched — and believed — in the last three hours. That's the mark of great storytelling.

Priyanka Roy

**t2 CAUGHT UP WITH MAYUR MORE AND PALAK JAISWAL, THE LEAD PAIR OF BLACK WHITE & GRAY, FOR A CHAT**

More than the story, what was your reaction when you were told about the format of *Black White & Gray*?

**Palak Jaiswal:** It is a mockumentary of sorts and that hooked me. Also, the screenplay is written in such a way that a lot of events happen at the same time, but it never feels like chaos. The episodes are mounted in such a compelling manner that you can't help but go from one to the next, often finishing the series in one setting.

When I read the script for the first time, my mind was blown because nothing that I expected was happening... it was all so unpredictable. It constantly keeps you on the edge.

**Mayur More:** When Pushkar (Mahabal, co-creator and director), told me the story, I was dumbfounded because I had never seen or heard anything like this. I was like: 'Wow, this guy wants to make something very special and let me support him.' I got the narration just two days before shooting... till then I didn't know what was happening! So all my reactions on set — and in the series — are automatically of surprise! (Laughs)

These are ordinary people caught in very extraordinary circumstances. How did you build empathy and relatability with them?

**Mayur:** What was constant on my mind was that if such a thing happened to me in life, how would I react. I just did another crime show before this and that gave me some insight into the psyche of a killer, particularly things like what pushes a man to pull the trigger and kill another man? It is scary and fascinating.

**Palak:** Sometimes, certain situations happen



Mayur More and Palak Jaiswal in the series

in life that push one to the extreme, but what these two characters have to go through is unimaginable. This is a mockumentary, it is a fictionally written story but it is shot in a documentary format telling people that it has happened in real life... but it is a fictional story! It is complicated in form and yet, I feel that the girl I play is relatable in many ways... she lives a life that many girls in our country

live. She also has a moral compass and that comes into play several times, forcing her to make a decision. Very few people have the intent to kill. But circumstances in life push her into it, and that could happen to anyone.

Given the format, were the challenges of filming more mental than physical?

**Mayur:** It was challenging in all aspects — mentally, physically, emotionally. The emotional scenes did take a toll. In the beginning, we were going to shoot it in a linear fashion, and I was happy that I could take it one day at a time. But then, the decision was made to shoot non-linear and I got quite nervous because I had already prepped to do things in a certain way. Also, I had only one or two takes to do some scenes and that brought on added pressure. But in hindsight, it worked out well.

The weather was challenging. It was hot in Nagpur and we had to run around a lot. Then we shifted to Uttarakhand, and it was very cold there, with scenes that demanded we jump into ice-cold water. It was tough but I had fun because I got a chance to do something which I enjoy.

**Palak:** For me, the challenge began from the script level. I had to figure out this girl, her mental make-up and motivations. At every bend, the boy and girl have two choices and it was important for me to gauge why she was going with one choice over another.

We shot a lot at midnight and early mornings. Our sleep schedules had gone for a toss. On one occasion, my stunt double couldn't perform a certain stunt and I volunteered to do it myself. I ended up doing quite a few stunts myself. For my debut project, this was as demanding, but also as creatively satisfying, as it could be.

**Mayur:** Maintaining continuity was a challenge. We have shot the entire series wearing one set of clothes.

Priyanka Roy



## COMING UP

**What:** Comedy Night Live in association with t2  
**Where:** Kala Mandir  
**When:** Today, 6.30pm onwards  
**Expect:** Anamika Kala Sangam will present Comedy Night Live in Calcutta for the first time. There is the promise of an unforgettable evening of laughter and entertainment. The star-studded lineup features some of India's most loved comedians, including the



hilarious Ali Asgar, mimicry genius Sanket Bhosale, the lively duo Tannaz and Bakhtyar Irani, and the popular twin entertainers Chinki Minku. Adding spice to the event will be actor Nussrat Jahan, who will join in for a "roasting" segment. The one-of-a-kind comedy extravaganza brings together a mix of stand-up, mimicry and banter, making it a must-attend event. Anamika Kala Sangam's attempt to bring such high-profile entertainment

to the city reflects its commitment to promoting art and culture. Get ready for a night packed with fun, laughter and memories.

**Organiser speak:** "We are thrilled to host Comedy Night Live, curated by Anamika Kala Sangam, featuring top comedians of the country. We are bringing this first-of-its-kind experience to Calcutta," said Sanjay Agarwal, chairman of the organising committee of Anamika Kala Sangam.

The Telegraph CLASSIFIED *Whats On!* WednesDélite

## PROPERTY

## FLAT PURCHASE/SALE

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 AN126AN126 00117469

**তারাপীঠ**  
 মায়ের মন্দিরের কাছে দ্বারকা নদীর ধারে 400 ফ্ল্যাটের কমপ্লেক্সে লিফ্ট/পার্কিং/বাগান/কমিউনিটি হল ব্লক রেডি ফ্ল্যাট 9L থেকে শুরু। Bank লোন হবে 9836345566/ 6291254909  
 AN116AN116 00117246

**ই.এম বাইপাস মেট্রো কাশ গ্র্যান্ড কারি থেকে ৪মিঃ হটাঁপথে পূর্ববর্তী 1150 sqft 2টি 3BHK flat বারান্দা, গ্যারেজসহ 1st/3rd floor এ 70 লাখ ও 65 লাখে বিক্রয়। দালাল নয়। 9930028223**  
 AN321AN321 00117548

**SALE:** Spacious/ big 3-BHK flat, 2- Toilets, Spacious open Veranda, 1230 sq.ft carpet area, (Super-built area- 1499 sq.ft), 3rd floor- No lift, 3- sides open + own Garage - Expected Price- Rs. 50 lacs (Negotiable), 2- minutes walk from Masterda Surya Sen Metro Station, near Bansdrani Market, 334 NSC Bose Rd, Kolkata- 700047 (M) 9313786167/ 9339193134.  
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**বাঘাইঘাট রাস ঠাকুর আশ্রমের পিছনে 2BHK 1স্ট ফ্লোর, 2বাথ 1বারান্দা, খোলা রান্না ঘর-ডাইনিং, গ্যারেজ বৈঃ, 2023 এ তৈরি, ক্যাশ ক্রয় মূল্য 27L 9748827830**  
 AG278AG278 00117249

**SALE 1068 sqft builtup 2BHK with 2 bath Vastu approved Flat on 4th floor+ Carpark in Aasha Apts at Tollygunge Phari. 9831173750**  
 AN114AN114 00117476

**BEHALA Sakherbazar 3BHK 1070 Sqft Flat Marble flr. 6yrs used, 1st flr, Lift, on 30ft Road, Garage, 43 Lakh, No Broker M:9874848504**  
 DR15007DR15007 00116151

**SALE 3 room S&E open, 3rd floor, 1300sqft, 32yr, Lift, DG, Carpark, Almira, Rasbehari Avenue, Triangular Park, 2.30 Cr, 9830290305**  
 AF158AF158 00116543

**NEAR R Bharati Univ. 4 minute walk from BT Rd, 2nd flr S/E Corner Marble flr/lift 855 sqft approx SBU @ 5700/- per sft M:8588855930**  
 AG234AG234 00117340

**উত্তরাপাড়া লরেল স্ট্রীট 1st Flr এ 2BHK 900 Sq.Ft. গ্যারেজ সহ flat 36 লাখ ও 2nd Flr. এ 2BHK 880 Sq.Ft. Flat ready to move 32 লাখ 9830450513**  
 AG278AG278 00117553

**বারান্দা ট্রেন বাসস্টপ বাজার হেন্সেল্টার Bank নগড়া PO নিকট 1250/Flat রিসেল মূল্য 37L 3 বেড 2বাথ ডাইনিং হ্যালিকলি পূর্বে কৃষ্ণনর রোড M. 7595994214.**  
 AN468AN468 00116336

**1BHK, 503 sqft., 2nd Flr, with lift, Merlin flat at sibrampur near Behala chowrasta, 15 L, resale, M: 7980195954/ 9123639763. (8-11 pm)**  
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**READY To Move flat for sale at New Town AA - 2C, 1000 sqft East Facing, 1st Floor 2BHK with Pura Room @ 49.5L. Call 6290033650, 8910045447**  
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**কল্যাণী A-2-A-9 D-19/11 (A Block) B-9-B-10 B-12 B-15 2&3 BHK Ready to move Flat Booking চলছে। S Enterprize Developer M-7003399113/ 8100091665**  
 AG152AG152 00117543

**সমর্থন বাজার মেট্রো স্টেশনের ধারে জেসস লন্ড সন্নরীণ ওপার PNB Bank, Bazar, Park সংলগ্ন South Facing 3 Side Open Silpara, Kol-8 Basket মার্ভের পাশে 2nd floor এ Flat বিক্রয় আছে। 9748604015**  
 DR15007DR15007 00116773

**NEW Building Ready to Move in 2BHK Flat for Sale @60Lacs+Gst, Car Parking Extra at Fern Road Ballygunge, M-8274870570 9674109112**  
 DR15007DR15007 00116322

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 AF360AF360 00117344

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**FLAT on Belgharia Exp. way, KV-Ph-II Birati D-Type marble floor 1510 sq.ft 4 BHK, 4 Balcony, 4 bath, 1 Car Park, 5th flr, 2 lift, vacant - Secured Rs. 85 Lakh. M: 9874746447/ 9962595763**  
 AG278AG278 00117279

**2BHK Flat/1st Floor/1Toilet/Balcony/ 600sqft/ South East Open behind Sakherbazar Super Market for Sale Rs 23 Lac Mob- 9007026816**  
 AN428AN428 00116926

**B.T. Rd -র উপর 1st Flr এ 1BHK বিক্রয় আছে, অন্যান্য বাস স্ট্যান্ডের বিপরীতে, CCTV ও Water Treatment এর সুবিধা সহকারে। 9836597168/ 8017561850**  
 AN252AN252 00117021

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 AG158AG158 00117209

**৬ রুম ২ গ্যারেজ ব্রিকল বাড়ি বেহালা বাজার মেট্রো ৫ মিঃ ১১৫ লাখ। 9874394218 দালাল নহে।**  
 AG158AG158 00117547

**ইন্ডাপুর মায়ের পাড়া, দেবীতলা 3½ কাঠা জমির উপর দোতলা বাড়ী 12 ফুট রাস্তায় শীঘ্রই বিক্রয়। সরাসরি যোগাযোগ: 7595866585**  
 AG278AG278 00117454

**শ্যামনগর স্টেশন বাজার ব্যাক হাসপাতাল 10 মিঃ দূরত্বে ২কাঠা সম্পূর্ণ মার্বেলের কিতল বাড়ি 7টি রুম, 3টি বাথ, ঠাকুরঘর গ্যারেজসহ 65 লাখে বিক্রয় 7439649627**  
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**দমদম Jn. Rly Station কাছে পূর্ব সিধি কদমতলা, 2 কাঠার উপর জমিতে আসবাবপত্রসহ দোতলা বাড়ি বিক্রয়। ১ টি নারকেল গাছ আছে। দালাল নহে। 9620404078**  
 AG278AG278 00115354

**ঠাকুরপুকুর মেট্রো স্টেশন থেকে 2 মিনিট হাটা দূরত্বে 10 ফুট রাস্তায় 3.4 কাঠা জমিতে একতলার প্লানে বাড়িসহ জমি 28 লাখ টাকা প্রতি কাঠা বিক্রয় 7980776978**  
 prasan61k@rediffmail.com  
 DR15007DR15007 00115772

## LAND PURCHASE SALE

**দমদম ক্যান্টো সূভানগরে এস পাল রিস্তা স্ট্রান্ডের কাছে কম বেশী 2 কাঠা দুই দিকে রাস্তা, খালি জমি বিক্রি। M- 6289473115/ 931933668**  
 AG278AG278 00117338

**দঃ কলিকাতায় শরৎ বসু রোডের কাছে চক্রেভেড়িয়া লেনে ২টি(আলাদা আলাদা) দোতলা বাড়ি সহ পোল চার কাঠা জমি বিক্রয় যোগাযোগ- 8336022517**  
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**FOR Rent empty Land at Ankurhati on Bombay Road International Hat 47 Katha and 30 Katha Contact No 9331055453 9339725698**  
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**E.M. Bypass near Kalikapur within 1 km, 60 katha vaastu land with boundary wall for sale. Call: 9330452513, 9831489285**  
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**PLOT for sale at Township, beside Newtown IT Hub, EMI Available, Rs. 8 Lacs per cotta; Tel: 8240041642, 6290276118**  
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**জোকা মেট্রো ও স্বামীনারায়ণ মন্দিরের নিকটে ১ লাখ ৫০ হাজার টাকা কাঠা জমি পাওয়া যাচ্ছে। EMI এর সুবিধা আছে। 9831182055**  
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## FLAT RENT/LEASE

**রবীন্দ্র সারোবর মেট্রো কাছে 2BHK সাজানো ফ্ল্যাট 2 Toilets ডাড়া দেব পার্কিং ফ্রি 9903448667**  
 AF158AF158 00116834

**বালিগঞ্জের কাছে বসবাসের জন্য 1BHK ও ২রুম ফ্ল্যাট খোলামেলা (সেমিফার্নিশ) বাড়ী ডাড়া দেব। ভাল এলাকা। বাস, অটো ২মিঃ। দালাল নহে। M-99037 94464.**  
 AG278AG278 00115258

## HOUSE RENT/LEASE

**নাগেরবাজারের কাছে কাজীপাড়ায় একতলায় 2BHK ২টা টয়লেট দক্ষিণে প্রশান্ত বারান্দা ছোট পরিবারকে মাসিক 9000/- ডাড়া দেব। M-9830431712**  
 AG278AG278 00115401

**কালিদিব খুদিরাম বোস সন্নরীতে 2 Bed, 1 Kitchen, 1 Bath, Living cum dining একতলা ডাড়া দেব। ১১ মাস লিজ। M- 9836440202 (10-1 PM, 6-9 PM).**  
 AG158AG158 00114839

## OFFICE RENT/LEASE

**কৈলাশী VIP সন্নরীতে 4টি 3BHK Flat এবং Ground Floor Commercial (Lift) সহ সম্পূর্ণ ডাড়া দেব। যোগাযোগ 9230518979**  
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**হাতিবাগান মোড়ে Wi-Fi ও ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও GST সুবিধা সহ, সুলভে, সুসজ্জিত বিভিন্ন সাইজের অফিস, ডাড়া দেওয়া হয়। যোগাযোগ- 9903311045**  
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**হাওড়া মন্দির তলার কাছে দোতলা বাড়ির একতলা ডাড়া দেব। ডিপোজিট বেশী ডাড়া কম। অফিস ক্লিনিক চেম্বার ইত্যাদি অগ্রাণ্য। দালাল ছাড়া শীঘ্র যোগাযোগ 8335080242**  
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 AG278AG278 00117189

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 AN321AN321 00117337

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## AAMAR BOSS STAR RAKHEE SHARES ANECDOTES OF DILIP KUMAR, AMITABH BACHCHAN AND AMJAD KHAN AS SHIBOPROSAD MUKHERJEE TURNS INTERVIEWER FOR t2

**N**andita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee's upcoming film *Aamar Boss* has sparked anticipation and excitement among fans, as they eagerly wait for the release of the film in theatres on May 9. One of the highlights of *Aamar Boss* is the presence of Rakhee, who returns to films after 22 years. Having enjoyed a dazzlingly successful career of charming performances across genres, Rakhee plays a caring mother to her devoted son (played by Shiboprosad) in the mother-son relationship film. Recently, Rakhee and Shiboprosad got together for a t2 chat at Taj Bengal. Excerpts.

**Shiboprosad:** Through this conversation, I would like you to share some rare anecdotes from the past. You had once shared a story of Dilip Kumar rustling up an omelette on the road during the shoot of *Shakti*.

**Rakhee:** No, not an omelette. Dilip Saab would arrive on the set and ask for the pages of his dialogue. He carried an ink pen and would take the sheaf of papers and go sit underneath a tree. One day, I saw him slapping himself. He was reprimanding himself. "You don't remember your lines," he was telling himself.

One day, as we were travelling to a location for the shoot, he told us to stop and follow him. Everyone from the unit followed him to a shop by the roadside. "How are you, Bhalaya?" he asked the shopkeeper. Once the shopkeeper realised who he was speaking to, he was flabbergasted. I cannot conjure up that expression here. "Do you have a saucepan?" Dilip Saab asked him. "Yes," he said. "Do you have a brick?" The shopkeeper said that he can get it for him. "Give me a saucepan, water and a brick," Dilip Saab told him. Then we understood the whole story. Dilip Saab had already packed 20 kgs of biryani in the cars for everyone from the unit. But that biryani did not have eggs in it. So he decided to rustle up boiled eggs by the roadside.

I remember another incident where the director Ramesh Sippy wasn't satisfied with one of the scenes for a romantic song... Dilip Saab was supposed to turn in a certain way... and he made Dilip Saab give retakes of that shot 27 times to get it right. "You are looking like Dilip Kumar and not the character," said Sippy.

**Shiboprosad:** You had fallen off a horse once...

**Rakhee:** Since I did not want a 'duplicate' to do that scene. I wanted to do it on my own. I was



Rakhee and Shiboprosad Mukherjee

a perfectionist. You see this mark on my forehead? I got it during the shoot of a Dulal Guha film. I believe that to gain something, you have to give. Gains often come with sacrifices.

**Shiboprosad:** You had worked with Amitabh Bachchan in quite a few films. How did you develop that chemistry? Tell us about the jacket episode!

**Rakhee:** This was years before Amitabh Bachchan became the Amitabh Bachchan. I was shooting for a film directed by Lekh Tandon and Amitabh had come to the shoot with his friends. We had planned to go to Agra. Amitabh said that he would also come along with us. We all got into the Ambassadors. It was winter and suddenly we were hit with a foul smell. We all tried to figure out the source of that smell and finally realised it was coming from his jacket. He told us that someone had got the jacket for him from Kabul. We doused the jacket with all the perfumes we could get our hands on.

**Shiboprosad:** He would call you Bourani.

**Rakhee:** Yes, that is because of Jaya (Bachchan)... Jaya would call me Bourani. I never thought of him as my hero... and because of that our chemistry developed.

**Shiboprosad:** When I first met you to narrate the story of *Aamar Boss*,

you had told me then that you had seen our films and your favourite film is *Haami*.

**Rakhee:** Yes, because the story was beautiful. Many years ago, the film *Lalu Bhulu* was made for children. But then people stopped making children's films. I really liked the subject of *Haami*... and I feel you should make the film in Hindi.

**Shiboprosad:** You had told me then that if we offer you a script which has a heart-touching, sweet subject and you like it, then

you'll act in our film. You had told me that it had to be a bound script and that I had to go to Bombay and narrate it to you there.

**Rakhee:** Shibu has this brightness in his eyes! They speak volumes. I had seen Shibu act in *Haami* and then I came up with the suggestion that he play the role of my



A moment from *Aamar Boss*, which releases in theatres on May 9

son in *Aamar Boss*. The lullaby we shot for rings so true in the film.

**Shiboprosad:** How was your experience working with Nandita Roy?

**Rakhee:** She has that hint of a smile at the corner of her mouth... and that's how we would understand that the scene had come out well.

**Shiboprosad:** In the film, you are our boss!

**Incidentally, (actor) Amjad Khan would call you: 'Teen foot ka Dada.'**

**Rakhee:** Amjad was a very learned man, a thorough gentleman... but after *Sholay*, his image went through a complete transformation. Kids were scared of him. I had done many films with him. Things got to such a stage that he faced problems while trying to get his daughter admitted to a school. He then came to me and told me the situation and then I had a word with the principal, who had harboured this wrong notion about him, which was built around his public image post *Sholay*. "I told her that he (Amjad) was a thorough gentleman."

**Shiboprosad:** Who is your closest friend in the film industry? We hear that it is Salim Khan.

**Rakhee:** Gulzar, Salim and Javed (Akhtar) wrote scripts for the productions of GP Sippy. I have known Salim since then. I have seen Salman Khan and his brothers since they were kids. Talking about the Salim-Javed screenplays, Javed would write all the witty lines. And as an actor, I would always focus on the scripts.

**Shiboprosad:** Give us the names of a few eateries in Calcutta which you would like to visit.

**Rakhee:** Radhu Babu's shop, Chung Wah, Waldorf... we would enjoy the cutlet from a coffee shop... I can't remember the name. Also, the *beguni* and *phuluri* from a sweet shop in Dum Dum.

**Shiboprosad:** *Aamar Boss* has a connection with Sukumar Ray.

**When I had called you for your home address, you had recited a poem. Rakhee: (Starts laughing).**



## XAVIER'S COMMERCE SOCIETY CELEBRATES 17TH EDITION OF INSIGNIA WITH POMP AND SPLENDOUR, WITH THE TELEGRAPH



Team XCS posed for a group picture with comedian Harsh Gujral on the first day.



The inaugural ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, SJ, principal of St. Xavier's College (Calcutta); Rev. Fr. Joseph Kulandai, SJ, vice-principal of department of commerce (Morning); and Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiam, SJ, vice-principal of department of commerce (Evening). Alongside student representative Riya Kedia, they lit the ceremonial lamp, officially marking the commencement of the fest.



Moderated by Kushal Jindal and Pratham V. Shah, the entrepreneurship event's 'Gilded Gamble' round saw Priyanshu Saraf and Raunak Khetan from St. Xavier's College emerge victorious with sharp strategy and creativity.

The commerce society of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, unfurled an engaging chapter of ambition and strategy with the 17th edition of Insignia 2025, in association with The Telegraph. Themed 'Reign of Resurgence', the national-level management fest, was held across

three days at the college campus, recently. With the college campus decked out keeping the theme of grandeur and Imperial France in mind, the event witnessed participation of students from across India, including Shri Ram College of Commerce, Hansraj College, Master's Union, Bhawanipur Education Society

College, J.D. Birla Institute, Scottish Church College and more. From intense boardroom battles to spontaneous wit on stage, the fest was a confluence of intellect, creativity and camaraderie. Celebrity guest Harsh Gujral crowned the fest with his comic brilliance. Glimpses.



On the first day, moderator Yug Patwari addressed participants of the event named Contingent, where students segregated themselves into groups as per their choice in different departments, like entrepreneurship, marketing or finance, and the game was conducted simultaneously in different departments. Students of Master's Union, a B-school in Haryana, delivered an outstanding performance to claim victory.



The auction segment of Public and International Relations event saw participants showcase sharp strategy. Suhas Pulluru and Manraj Singh Bhullar from team Master's Union emerged victorious.



One of the highlights, the Best Manager competition featured a rigorous three-round selection process, testing managerial skills, strategy and problem-solving, and concluded with a challenging stress interview by industry professionals. After a fiercely competitive series of rounds, Shaurya Dalal from Shri Ram College of Commerce emerged winner of the best manager competition, demonstrating exceptional prowess in all three rounds.

Joint secretaries of XCS Hemaansh Mohta (left) and Devansh Jogani.

"At Xavier's Commerce Society, we strive to create a platform where ideas meet execution, where learning goes beyond textbooks. Insignia brings together the brightest minds to push boundaries and redefine excellence in commerce and management," said Devansh. Hemaansh added: "In XCS, we unlock potential and grow together."



Shreyasee Dutta (t2 intern)  
Pictures courtesy: XCS

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## 2025 MET GALA: SRK'S ROYAL DEBUT, KIARA'S COUTURE MOTHERHOOD & DILJIT'S PUNJABI CHIC LED A NIGHT OF BLACK DANDYISM, TAILORING FANTASIES AND THEATRICS

**S**hah Rukh Khan colonised the MET Gala, sporting a Sabyasachi tuxedo-cape so opulent, it seemed capable of rewriting global economies. Making history as the first male Bollywood actor to step onto the iconic carpet, King Khan approached the evening with the kind of grace that suggested he was already ruling New York City. With a diamond-studded tiger cane and the aura of royalty, SRK turned the 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' theme of MET Gala 2025 into pure South Asian swagger — think vintage Calcutta darbar meets Harlem Renaissance drip. Shah Rukh didn't walk the carpet. He conquered it.

This year's co-chairs of 'fashion's biggest night' were Colman Domingo, Lewis Hamilton, A\$AP Rocky, Pharrell Williams, and, of course, MET Gala matriarch, Anna Wintour. LeBron James was an honorary chair but couldn't attend due to a knee injury. There's also a

host committee made up of 25 other stars.

The exhibition was inspired by the concept of Black dandyism, a style that reclaims and celebrates the history and transformation of Black fashion.

Rooted in the experiences of the African diaspora, the theme highlighted the powerful intersection of fashion, identity, and autonomy, showcasing how Black individuals have evolved from being stylised as symbols of wealth to becoming global trendsetters in their own right.

Kiara Advani debuted at the MET Gala in a Gaurav Gupta creation titled Bravehearts. Crafted to honour the maternal form, her look featured a metallic breastplate shaped like a heart and a sinuous train that symbolised an umbilical cord. The silhouette whispered futuristic mum-core. Pregnancy



1

**1** **KIARA ADVANI** played her MET Gala debut in a jaw-dropping Gaurav Gupta gown, celebrating motherhood and transformation. The sculpted gold breastplate, with its striking umbilical cord detailing, symbolized both defiance and legacy. Paired with a dramatic white cape that echoed André Leon Talley's bold style, Kiara's look was a powerful narrative of strength, femininity, and personal evolution.

2

**2** **KING KHAN**'s MET Gala debut was a bold fusion of heritage and maximalism. Striking his signature pose at the blue carpet in his floor-length Tasmanian wool coat, with exaggerated peak lapels and monogrammed Japanese horn buttons, SRK radiated old-world sophistication in Sabyasachi. Tailored wool trousers and a pleated cummerbund completed the look. The Bengal Tiger Head Cane, crafted in 18k gold and encrusted with sapphires and diamonds, was a statement of cultural pride. Custom necklaces, stacked rings, and bracelets added opulence, while gold-rimmed sunglasses and immaculate hair finished off his regal, powerful ensemble.

3

**3** Embroidered Gurmukhi his cape as **DILJIT DOSA** debut. In a custom Prabha he embodied regal splen Bhopinder Singh's gran gold embroidery, and the while Golecha jewellery, and bespoke Cartier-ins cultural pride. A fearless Asian heritage, Diljit's l with bold elegance and s



couture has officially entered the MET chat, and Klara was not the only participant. But she was, by far, its most glowing member.

And then "Punjabi aa gaye oye!" Diljit Dosanjh waltzed in, royal as ever, in a white Prabal Gurung number embroidered with Gurmukhi calligraphy. With heirloom-inspired jewels stacked on his fingers and that signature turban tilt, Diljit channelled Sikh royalty with a smirk and a wink, in the way only he can.

MET Gala veteran Priyanka Chopra Jonas kept it easy in Balmain polkas, while husband Nick Jonas swooned over her, helping her with her dress and her huge hat.

Our dest couturiers weren't just background credits. Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Manish Malhotra had an undeniable presence on the carpet, dressing stars from Bollywood royalty to international glamazons. MM

debuted at the MET too while dressing several attendees.

Natasha Poonawalla was, as expected, a walking editorial — corseted, bejewelled and over-the-top, while paying homage to the Parsi side of her family. Isha Ambani pulled off an Anamika Khanna number but the highlight was her borrowed heirloom jewellery from mum Nita Ambani.

It was an evening drenched in hues of blacks, whites and greys. The trends were loud and deliberate: pinstripes, wide-brimmed hats, hip-hugging skirts, tuxedo gowns, textual elements and dandy-inspired maximalism. Think Josephine Baker meets Andre Leon Talley in a Harlem speakeasy. From Klara Advani's umbilical cord-feature to Colman Domingo's pleated cape tribute, the night was dripping in homage and haute.

In the end, 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style' wasn't just a theme. It was a revolution in satin lapels and ancestral memory, and this year, the MET didn't whisper fashion — it roared.



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**8** ISHA AMBANI, a regular attendee of the Gala, embodied modern maharani glamour in a sculpted Anamika Khanna look — corseted white bodice, tailored black trousers, and a sweeping embroidered coat. Her heirloom jewels, including a 1931 Maharajah necklace and beige diamond ring, added gravitas. A pearl dragonfly clip and surreal brooches sealed the look in quiet magnificence.

**7** A fishtail skirt crafted from heirloom Parsi Gara saris, bold Gara jacket and lace bralette created a dynamic blend of strength and grace. Intricate embroidery, pearls, and an imperial purple lining made the Manish Malhotra ensemble the perfect outfit for the maximalist in **NATASHA POONAWALLA**.

6

Apart from dressing Shah Rukh Khan for his debut, **SABYASACHI MUKHERJEE** also walked the blue carpet for the second time, in a look that was a masterstroke in cultural reclamation. A quilted ivory overcoat paired with a pearl-buttoned shirt and sculptural cummerbund exuded regal elegance. The emerald choker and marigold-plumed hat were bold symbols of postcolonial pride, blending Indian aristocracy with Black Dandyism.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

4

**4** MANISH MALHOTRA cut a sleek silhouette as he became the second Indian couturier to hit the MET Gala red carpet after Sabyasachi. He owned the night with a daring fusion of Indian opulence and global edge. A sharply cut white shirt, sleek black trousers, and a gilded waistcoat were topped with a cape dripping in gold threadwork. Symbolic brooches — a tiger and an elephant — while emeralds sparkled like they knew their worth. The ensemble was drenched in Indian embroidery with a signatory MM flare.

5

**5** PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS's 2025 Met Gala look is a study in elegance, but it feels somewhat restrained for the biggest fashion night. The polka-dotted Balmain dress and the emerald Bvlgari necklace are standout elements. The wide-brimmed hat and gloves nod to dandyism, but they don't quite elevate the ensemble beyond the expected. Though beautiful, it feels safe — not quite pushing boundaries as one might hope on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum.

letters shone proudly on **DILJIT DOSANJH** made his MET Gala debut, evoking Maharaja decor. A white turban, intricate embroidery, including a ceremonial sword and a bejewelled necklace, added layers of a mix of dandyism and South Asian masculinity redefined detail.



▶ FROM PAGE 9



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**9 RIHANNA** did not just announce her third baby with ASAP Rocky, she shut down the MET Gala carpet in peak power-dresser mode. Dressed in custom Marc Jacobs, she served boss energy in a boned corset, slit wool skirt, cropped jacket and a classic shirt layered with a polka-dot tie. Known for never disappointing at the MET Gala, RiRi's sleek top hat, diamond brooches and baby bump sealed the slay.

**10 KIM KARDASHIAN's** black leather cowgirl look with a side of pearls and diamonds certainly made an entrance, but let's be honest, nothing will ever top that wet Mugler moment from Camp: Notes on Fashion in 2019. This year's Western-inspired ensemble was sharp, sleek and covered in diamonds, but it was a little less "wow" and a little more "well, it's Kim." Still, she managed to stand out. Just not quite like she did in 2019.

**11 SABRINA CARPENTER** ditched the trousers and stole the show in a custom oxblood Louis Vuitton blazer-bodysuit. Sharp, sparkly and sass-laced, the Pharrell-approved look was pure power-play — no pants, no problem. With a sun-kissed glow and cheeky charm, Sabrina served tailored drama in an OOTN that undoubtedly makes it to our best-dressed list!

**12 MADONNA** lit up the MET Gala — quite literally — in an ivory silk Tom Ford suit and a smouldering cigar to match. Leaning into the theme with boss-grade flair, the 66-year-old Queen of Pop gave androgyny a sultry twist, pairing high-waisted trousers with a cropped shirt, lace gloves and a knowing smirk. She was on theme, on fire, and undeniably on our best-dressed list — smoke and all.

**13 DIANA ROSS** didn't just return to the MET Gala after 22 years — she descended like royalty draped in sequins and sentiment. Her custom white gown, dreamed up with her son Evan and designer Ugo Mozie, came complete with an 18-foot train embroidered with the names of her children and grandchildren. It was part couture, part family tree, and wholly fabulous. Honestly, if legacy dressing is the new trend, everyone else might as well pack it up.

**14 KENDALL JENNER** ticked every expected MET Gala box — tailored, tasteful, vaguely referential — but her look felt more committee-approved than couture moment. Chic? Sure. Groundbreaking? Not quite. If Superfine: Tailoring Black Style was the homework, the supermodel handed in the neatest, most predictable answer in the class.

**15 EMMA CHAMBERLAIN**, one of the first to arrive at the 2025 MET Gala and a host this year, turned heads with her daring take on pinstripes. While many played it safe, Emma opted for a backless pinstripe suit dress with a trail, pairing it with sheer gloves... both fashion-forward and far from boring.

**16** Custom cream Louis Vuitton was the star of **ZENDAYA'S** look, a perfect example of sleek tailoring with no pinstripes in sight — thank God! The suit was paired with a matching hat and she flaunted red nails and an engagement ring that stole the show.

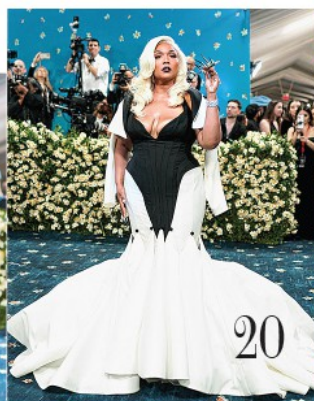
**17** Monogrammed LV, burgundy silk bowtie, checkerboard shorts — **DOECHII** stunned 2025 MET Gala. The cigar in hand? Pure confidence. She waltzed onto the blue carpet with Tiffany jewellery and a natural Afro, nailing the theme. Definitely one of the best-dressed of the evening!



## FASHION



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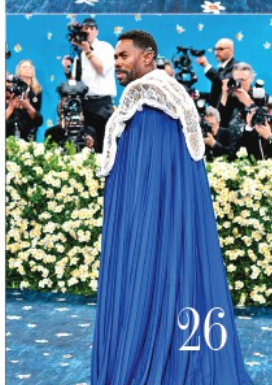
21



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**18 GIGI HADID** brought chic to the MET Gala carpet in a custom golden Miu Miu gown, honouring Zelda Wynn Valdes and the theme. Styled by Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, she worked a sleek Victory Roll and silver accessories like a Goddess. No sign of "her man" Bradley Cooper, but she did mention him on the blue carpet. A little MET Gala tease never hurt!

**19** Featuring a velvet ocelot-print bustier and exaggerated shoulder pads, **DOJA CAT** commanded attention in a Marc Jacobs pinstriped bodysuit. The bold, '80s-inspired look, paired with black tights and Kiki boots, was a striking mix of sharp lines and fluidity, underscored by a dramatic wool jacket top. Going pantless was definitely trending on the blue carpet.

**20 LIZZO** arrived with platinum blonde hair and a custom Christian Siriano gown that screamed 'drama'. A cream and black corset paired with a cropped jacket and a diamond-studded floating skirt had everyone turning heads.

**21** We love a Manish Malhotra moment on the MET Gala carpet! **COCO JONES** served up elegance in a cream and white embroidered masterpiece, complete with a dramatic train and shirtless chic beneath the sharp-lapelled coat. With a dazzling diamond necklace, Jimmy Choo heels, a loooong braid and floral inspiration cascading down her look, she was a vision for sure.

**22** Very few nailed the theme like co-host **TEYANA TAYLOR**. In custom Ruth E. Carter and Marc Jacobs, she shut it down in oxblood stripes, a feathered fedora, red cane, wallet chains, gloves, and a durag with a train featuring the text "Harlem Rose". Sharp tailoring? Check. Swagger? Off the charts. Best dressed of the night — no contest.

**23 CARDI B**'s green velvet Burberry suit had the Internet jokingly comparing her to seaweed, but she pulled it off with style. The Burberry look, complete with a daring back cutout, plunging neckline and Afro hair, showcased her fearless fashion flair.

**24** He not just owned the racetrack! Formula One legend **LEWIS HAMILTON** dropped jaws on the MET steps. In custom Grace Wales Bonner — silk tailcoat, cowrie sash, vintage jewels — he served culture, couture, and co-chair realness. Fastest on four wheels and best dressed? By a mile!

**25** **BAD BUNNY** was back at the MET — and hotter than a Caribbean summer. In a brown Prada suit, glitzy gloves and a pava hat worthy of a revolution, he repped Puerto Rico with flair, sparkle and just the right amount of chaos. Benito, bendito... you've still got it.

**26** **COLMAN DOMINGO** didn't just co-chair the 2025 MET Gala — he pulled off the most elegant costume change of the night. Draped in a regal cobalt Valentino cape paying homage to André Leon Talley, the actor hit the carpet looking every bit the fashion statesman. But plot twist! Off came the cape to reveal a razor-sharp monochrome blazer, polka-dot scarf, pinstripes and Boucheron bling. A lesson in dandy drama? Without a doubt.

**27** **JENNIE**, the K-pop icon, showed up in a stunning white strapless Chanel dress. With pearl details, a split hem and a chic two-tone boater hat, she brought major Audrey Hepburn vibes. She embodied old Hollywood glam. Black dandyism? Not so sure.

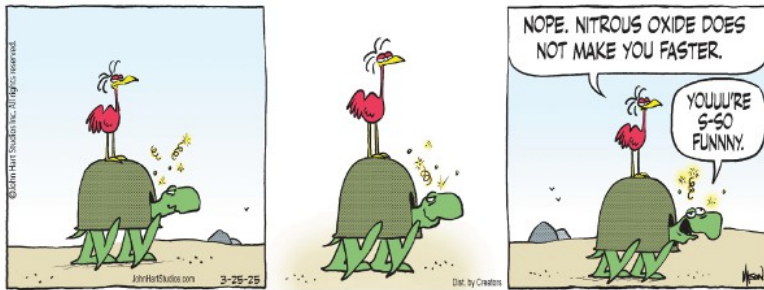
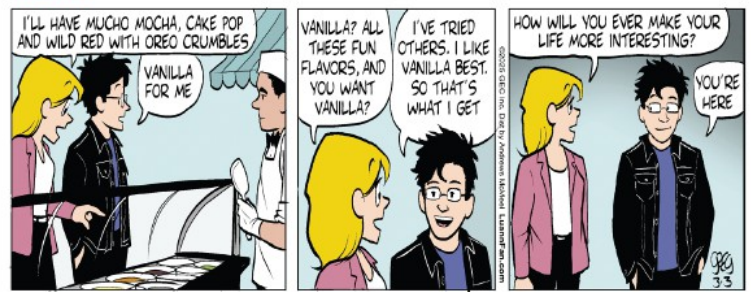
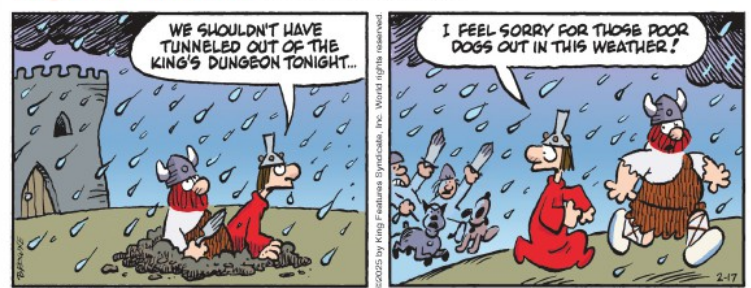
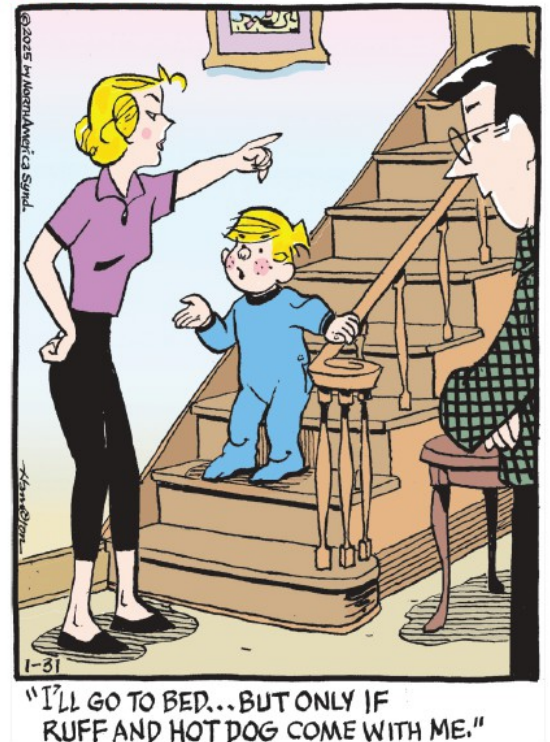
**28** As co-chair of the 2025 MET Gala, **A\$AP ROCKY** brought Harlem to the red carpet in a self-designed AWGE parka — double-breasted, dandy, and very "dad-on-duty chic." Inspired by Marmot jackets from his youth, it came tailored like a tux and trimmed with velcro (because why not?!). He styled it with satin boxers, Louboutins and Bulgari bling.

**29** MET debutante **CHAPPELL ROAN** didn't follow the theme — she *was* the theme. Draped in glittery pink and gold with matching tear tracks and drag flair, Roan turned the MET Gala into her own Pink Pony Club. Subtle? Never heard of that!

Sanjali Brahma

Pictures: Reuters and Getty Images



**B.C.** by Johnny Hart**Luann** by Greg Evans**Peanuts** by Charles Schulz**The Wizard of Id** by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart**Flash Gordon** by Dan Schkade**Hagar the Horrible** by Chris Browne**Blondie** by Dean Young**Dennis the Menace****Doonesbury Classics** by Garry Trudeau



## PUZZLE

11642

## SUDOKU MODERATE

	7						1	
				6	4			
6				5				7
	6	9	3				1	
	4			9	1		6	
		5			8	4	3	
5				1				2
			2	7				
	9						5	

Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11640 is on the right

9	4	8	2	3	7	1	6	5
6	3	1	9	5	4	2	8	7
2	5	7	8	1	6	9	3	4
7	9	3	4	2	5	6	1	8
8	6	5	1	9	3	4	7	2
1	2	4	7	6	8	3	5	9
3	8	2	6	7	9	5	4	1
4	1	6	5	8	2	7	9	3
5	7	9	3	4	1	8	2	6

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11643

## SUDOKU DIABOLICAL

9				4				
		3				9	5	
	2			1			6	
			5			7		
		5				4	9	
		2			9			
8							2	
4			7		3			
			8					6

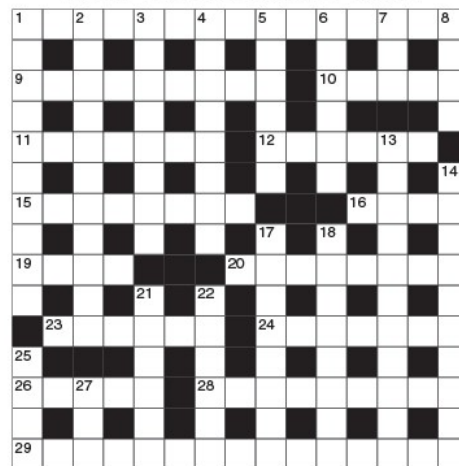
Fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. Solution to Sudoku 11641 is on the right

9	4	1	5	3	8	2	6	7
3	7	2	4	6	1	8	5	9
8	5	6	2	7	9	1	3	4
4	2	3	9	5	6	7	1	8
6	8	5	7	1	2	9	4	3
7	1	9	8	4	3	5	2	6
5	6	8	3	2	7	4	9	1
1	9	4	6	8	5	3	7	2
2	3	7	1	9	4	6	8	5

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14678

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 On the rocks, I can drag sand to son's bucket (4,4,3,4)  
 9 Watch hourglass for cheats (3-6)  
 10 For speech, remained sober (5)  
 11 Short City fraud extremely idiotic (7)  
 12 What disturbed cuckoo in Middle Wallop? (6)  
 15 Spielberg initially accompanying shoot inspired by The Birds (8)  
 16 Sat by me regularly? It's irritating (4)  
 19 American with a year on holiday (4)  
 20 German and Irish advanced in submarine (8)  
 23 Left defeated (6)  
 24 51 feet behind carriage, emergency transport (7)  
 26 Pay for entertainment (5)  
 28 Team's creative linchpin may sparkle in action with seconds to go (9)

- 29 Rude jokes and drinks entertaining English nurse and doctor after ten (6,9)

## DOWN

- 1 Put out chops and old banger (10)  
 2 Press Blunt at home after answer reveals political divide (4,7)  
 3 Elegance of band on head (8)  
 4 Knight enters Chester suffering cuts (8)  
 5 Things worth having, like plants (6)  
 6 Reject racket broken by seed (6)  
 7 Virginia holding up round eggs (3)  
 8 Foam in the south of France beginning to spray (4)  
 13 Urbane and slippery sort, one taken in by sly cricket shot (4,7)  
 14 We're on board at Paddington! Relaxed, rest up and read (10)  
 17 Popular prince followed by crawler – it might get up your nose! (8)

## Yesterday's solution

D	O	G	S	B	O	D	I	Y	W	I	C	K	E	D
E	L	R	O	B	N	L	E							
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	I	S	T	I	C	S
E	D	V	T	A	T	M	E							
N	A	I	V	E	T									
T	O	R	E	N	T									
P	L	A	I	B	A	L	L							
C	U													
O	A	S	I	S										
N	U	E	X	H	I									
T	R	U	M	P	E	T								
E	S	P	I	H	L	N	T							
S	L	I	P	O	F	T	H	E						
T	N	R	E	A	D	E	N							
S	I	G	H	T	S									

By arrangement with The Daily Telegraph

## Jumble

David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VRBAO

NICIG

TALCET

CAEYNG



AFTER INFLATABLE TIRES WERE INTRODUCED, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THEM TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MIDST HOBBY DRAGON UNLIKE  
 Answer: After making a joke about his wife's weight gain, he'd need to — LIGHTEN THE MOOD

14330

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Odd; drink (3)  
 3 Male (3)  
 5 Money owing (4)  
 7 Ancient Peruvians (5)  
 8 Robust (6)  
 10 Vortex (4)  
 11 Overdone masculinity (8)  
 13 Opportune (6)

## DOWN

- 14 Expert (6)  
 17 Nightdress (8)  
 19 Stupor (4)  
 21 Frolic (6)  
 22 Bright blue (5)  
 23 Elapse (4)  
 24 Deep container (3)  
 25 Request (3)

## DOWN

- 1 Imitation gem (10)  
 2 Road surface (7)

- 3 The majority (4)  
 4 Bahamas capital; saunas (anag) (6)  
 5 Ring-shaped cake (8)  
 6 Portends (5)  
 9 Traffic jam (10)  
 12 Chicago's state (8)  
 15 Stoker novel (7)  
 16 Group of seven (6)  
 18 African republic (5)  
 20 Insult (4)

## Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Now; 3 Say; 5 Gents; 8 Thief; 9 Leaving; 10 Data; 11 Movement; 13 Annual; 14 Buried; 17 Subjects; 19 Clap; 22 Rooster; 23 Sleep; 24 Aimed; 25 Sad; 26 Spy.  
 Down: 1 Noted; 2 Written; 3 Sofa; 4 Yellow; 5 Grateful; 6 Noise; 7 Sighted; 12 Talented; 13 Austria; 15 Illness; 16 Stores; 18 Bloom; 20 Puppy; 21 Used.

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## YSL'S NEW RANGE OF LIPSTICK LAUNCHED AT NYKAA LUXE ON PARK STREET. t2 WAS THERE

**T**en bold shades by Yves Saint Laurent hit the shelves of Nykaa Luxe, Park Street, on May 2. The launch which saw The Inks line of lipsticks debut in Calcutta, was hosted by fashionista Davina Thacker and Prerna Jalan. A bunch of chic Calcuttans came by to swatch, sip, and shop. t2 dropped by.



Hosts Davina Thacker and Prerna Jalan at the YSL x Nykaa event. Davina, in a vibrant printed co-ord set, and Prerna in sculptural black with gold accents, were dressed for the event. "YSL is one of my favourite brands. I love their bags, lipsticks, everything. This new launch is fierce and bold, just like me," smiled Davina. Prerna loved its "high-quality payoff and wearable shades."

Beauty enthusiasts from across the city browsed shelves, swatched shades on their hands, and exchanged favourites as Alok Sharma, YSL India's education manager, conducted two live masterclasses. His top tip was "start your foundation from the centre of the face and blend outwards."

Jyotee Khaitan stopped by to celebrate the launch of YSL's new lipstick line. "I love it! I'm wearing it right now and can't wait to wear more of it," said the designer, her fresh Nykaa haul, her arm candy!



Neha Gandhi Binjraika was smart in a crisp black-and-white look and a Prada bag.



Fashion designer Deepika Agarwal stood out in a vivid blue dress and statement red loafers. "I'm loving being at the event today at Nykaa for the YSL launch. It's as vibrant as the hostess (Davina) herself," she said. "I picked up the shade Blush Connection from the collection, and I love it!"

Nekita Bhalla was all smiles as she posed with her pick of the day — YSL perfume!



Simran Kaur Walia (right), praised the long-stay matte and glossy options while Jyoti Luthra enjoyed the workshop. "I enjoyed the session on make-up tips and also meeting so many women and chit-chatting with them!" said Jyoti.



We loved Gitanjali Agarwal's eclectic street style at the event. Her picks from the brand? Lip shades and perfumes!



Riddhima Chawla brought an extra dose of warmth with her adorable son by her side, who lit up the room with his wide-eyed smile. "It was a shopping date with my four-year-old! Since Mother's Day is around the corner, he wanted me to buy myself a gift, and what's better than the YSL The Inks... fab, smooth!" she shared.

"I am a very lipstick person, so I was keen on checking this range from YSL, who are known for their beauty products, and I must say I wasn't disappointed," said Nikita Agarwal.

Anoushka Kundu (t2 intern)  
Pictures: Pabitra Das





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**SUNDAY OPEN**





## FILMS WITH ACTORS IN DUAL ROLES THAT YOU LOVE

Shah Rukh Khan in *Jawan*

Among the films featuring double roles in recent times, my favourite is the Sauvik Kundu-directed science-fiction Bengali action-comedy *Boomerang*. Jeet as a scientist, Dr. Samar Sen and the andro-humanoid clone robot Amar, and Rukmini Maitra as Samar's wife Isha Sen and a robot Nisha, played their respective double roles with much conviction and élan. (Which is your favourite film/series featuring a double role in recent times?... October 29)

Kajal Chatterjee

Charlie Chaplin made an audacious doppelganger film that served as a condemnation of fascism and the horrific Nazi German regime. Chaplin plays both lead roles, of a dictator who rises to power and of the Jewish barber. The result is a terrifically funny comedy of errors but one with blazingly furious messaging about the importance of standing against injustice. In the dual role, Chaplin does some of his best work, particularly in a poignant ending monologue that proved he was an acting icon beyond

the era of silent films.

Srijan Mukherjee

Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster *Jawan* stands out as my favourite film featuring a double role in recent times. This intensely engrossing action thriller unleashes a fantastic blend of electrifying excitement and thought-provoking exploration of pressing issues with sensitivity and sensibility. Shah Rukh Khan as the protagonist Vikram Rathore and his father Azad Rathore meticulously embodied the striking traits of his well-written characters, emphasising on core values such as compassion, empathy and awareness with unwavering conviction.

As soldiers, they displayed unyielding determination, advocating tirelessly for the marginalised and the wronged. They boldly challenged our corrupt system with hard-hitting queries, exposing its deep-rooted injustices and instilling a spirit of enquiry among the audience. While Shah Rukh illuminated the screen with his magnetic charm, his leading ladies remarkably matched his verve, augmenting the ensemble performance to perfection. Every element, ranging from witty one-liners to its impactful finale, was adeptly crafted, and culminated in an intellectually stimulating cinematic experience.

Special shout-out to director Atlee and music composer Anirudh Ravichander for delivering a chart-

topping music album.

Aayman Anwar Ali

There are a few movies which I like most but among them I preferred *Gemini Man* which I saw today. This was a very entertaining movie and had me glued from start to finish. Will Smith as the assassin Henry Brogan did an amazing job. The younger Will threw me off a little at first because we have been watching his older self for so long, but it was awesome. The computer-generated version took a few scenes to get used to but it was still amazing. Not sure why the critics gave it such a poor review. Great family movie, definitely would watch it again. The action scenes are captivating and watching Will pursue himself was something I never thought I'd wanted to see. Definitely would recommend it to those who like fast-paced action movies.

Debojit Swamaker

My favourite film featuring a double role in recent times, no doubt, is the intriguing and gripping Netflix mystery-thriller *Do Paaiti*, whose story revolves around twin sisters named Saumya and Shailee. Kriti Sanon played the dual role and delivered a power-packed, emotionally-charged and captivating performance. She shone in both roles and truly stole the limelight. The way the Bollywood actress portrayed the characters of the two sisters, who are poles apart in personality, was just fantastic and praiseworthy.

Sourish Misra

My favourite film set in 1947 is Ritwik Ghatak's classic titled *Meghe Dhaka Tara*. When the rest of India was joyfully celebrating the Independence of the country, millions of Bengalis (as well as Punjabis) suddenly found themselves 'alien' in the land owned by their ancestors for generations. Their world turned upside down with many of their family members ruthlessly murdered by communal elements. The ones who were lucky to escape the butchery fled their land and managed to reach and barely survive in what is now known as West Bengal. Bereft of shelter, resources and livelihood, the plight of these refugees was heartbreaking.

*Meghe Dhaka Tara* focuses on one such unfortunate family whose members had to sacrifice everything so that India could turn independent. The daily toil, struggle and sacrifice of the young refugee girl Nita (Supriya Choudhury) to survive

## YOUR FAVOURITE FILM BASED ON INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

against all odds and somehow sustain herself and her larger family with dignity, was heartrending. Her sincerity and honesty through all her troubles made the film all the more poignant. It also provided a lesson of sorts on the kind of hatred and horror that communalism can unleash on humanity.

(Which is your favourite film/series set in 1947... November 8)

Kajal Chatterjee

Year 1947 is an unforgettable watershed for each and every Indian. After a long struggle, the country was finally liberated from British rule. And from this perspective I would like to talk about a film named *Gandhi*, starring Ben Kingsley in the titular role.

The film offers an authentic

Anil Chatterjee and Supriya Choudhury in *Meghe Dhaka Tara*

representation of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. At the 55th Academy Awards in 1983, this movie won eight Oscar awards from 11 nominations, with multiple nominations in many other award ceremonies held that year. Watching *Gandhi*, I felt proud to be an Indian and have someone of his stature as my fellow countryman. A must-watch

for today's generation who have little knowledge of the stories of India's Independence struggle.

Mahatma Gandhi is depicted in the film as a great modern pantheistic prophet, but the camera does not shy away from revealing moments of possible colossal vanity that only paint him as human, just like the rest of us.

Debojit Swamaker

My favourite film set in 1947 is Deepa Mehta's 1998 movie *Earth*. The masterpiece was based on a novel named *Cracking India*, written by Bapsi Sidhwa. Starring Aamir Khan, Rahul Khanna, Nandita Das and Shabana Azmi, this fine period drama on friendship, love and heartbreak during the Partition of India in 1947 was our country's entry for the 1999 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. It received the top honour that year at the Asian Film Festival.

What I like the most about this film is the way the ace film-maker gave the Partition theme a human touch in its storyline. Aamir, Rahul and Nandita were splendid, their characterisations so real and so memorable. All three delivered fantastic performances. I also love the film's songs. The tracks, which are composed by legendary music director A.R. Rahman and written by another legend Javed Akhtar, were very melodious. My fave number from the movie is *Rut aa gayee re*.

Sourish Misra